



PUBLISHED FOR THE VOLUNTEERS OF KETTERING — Summer 2021

Summer Volunteer Activities

Our Neighborhood Pride Committee is very busy reviewing hundreds of properties submitted for the Neighborhood Pride Award. Nominations are accepted from May 1 through August 1. If you see a home or business that's been significantly improved or it has been maintained impeccably year after year, go ahead and complete a nomination. It's easy! Just visit www.ketteringoh.org or call the Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433.

Both youth and adult volunteers are spending time assisting with special events sponsored by our



Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. Additionally, volunteers are helping with summer camps at Habitat Environmental Center to ensure a wonderful experience for campers!

Volunteers are very excited to be returning to Frazee Pavilion this summer! This year's season will run from late July through early Sept. If you are interested in joining this outstanding team of volunteers, please contact the Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433. You must be 18 years of age or older, able to endure all types of weather and be ready to help meet and greet guests attending shows. This is a fantastic way to enjoy



the outdoors while giving back to our community!

The Fire department is in need of volunteers for



Go 4th! on Sunday, July 4, from 9:30 – 10:30 p.m. The volunteers will need to keep the public away from the fire line around the Delco Park pond during the firework show. This serves as an enjoyable volunteer opportunity as you will have a front row spot for the show! Please contact the Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433 or email nick.sorice@ketteringoh.org for additional details. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older.



Message from Mary Lou

As many of you are aware, I will be retiring from my position as Volunteer Administrator in July of this year. As I transition into this new chapter, I wanted to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for the support you've provided to the City of Kettering over the years. When joining the Volunteer Office in 2000, I never imagined how many wonderful and caring people I would meet. Your commitment and

enthusiasm allow Kettering to take programs and activities to new heights! Most importantly, your dedication to our community is simply amazing!

My last day in the office is July 2. As we move forward, Nick Sorice accepted the full-time position of Assistant Volunteer Administrator on May 10. A new Volunteer Administrator will be named within the next few weeks. With your continued enthusiasm, I feel confident the volunteer program will continue to thrive and serve as a model for other cities.

If you're not busy Tuesday, June 22, stop by Polen Farm. An Open House is being held from 3 – 5 p.m. I would love the chance to meet with you "in-person" before I begin my retirement!

Mary Lou Randolph
Volunteer Administrator



2021 Mayor's Award Recipients

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 majority of the volunteer service must serve Kettering. In celebration of National Volunteer Week, Mayor Patterson honored both a youth and an adult volunteer with this most prestigious award.



Tahjey Lawson
Mayor's Award Recipient

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 Dept.; 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 Solvig
Mayor's Award Recipient

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 them 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!

Kettering Leadership Academy Application Deadline Approaching

The deadline to apply to take part in the 2021 – 22 Kettering Leadership Academy is July 9. Applicants must live or work in the City of Kettering. The principal goal of the Academy is to build a network of people to take on leadership roles within our community, such as serving on a board or commission at the City of Kettering, or serving at one of our area non-profit organizations. The Academy consists of an overnight retreat in September and full day sessions held once a month with graduation in May. To complete an application or learn about additional details, visit www.ketteringoh.org or call **937-296-2433**.

Kettering Leadership Academy

Volunteer HOURS

The volunteer program's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. We'll soon be calculating hours for the July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 timeframe. Volunteer awards will be based on this information, so it is very important that we have your hours recorded accurately. If you have hours that need to be turned in, or you would like to check to see if we have your hours recorded, please call the Volunteer Office at **937-296-2433** or email nick.sorice@ketteringoh.org by July 31. We appreciate your help with our recordkeeping!



Save
THE
Date

Employee Council Picnic

The Kettering Employee Council will once again sponsor the annual picnic at Polen Farm. All volunteers are invited to attend. The date is Thursday, September 16. Watch for additional details to be provided in the next newsletter.



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

Mary Lou Randolph, Editor
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***“The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size,
but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.”***

— DeAnn Hollis