



PUBLISHED FOR THE VOLUNTEERS OF KETTERING — Fall 2021

## Message from the Mayor

To Our Beloved Volunteers:

The Volunteer Office has gone through some big changes during the past few months. We recently welcomed Dawn Kirchner as our new Volunteer Administrator and Nick Sorice, Assistant Volunteer Administrator. We are thrilled to see many of you return after months apart, as well. As our Volunteer Program gains momentum after an unwelcomed pause, I feel the energy and camaraderie as if we haven't missed a beat.

Thank you all for your efforts to help in different ways even from a distance. You made phone calls to check on those who needed it, made masks, greeting cards and offered to do anything possible to continue to make a difference. Your emails and phone calls just to check in and show your support made some of the longest days feel normal. We weren't surprised--It's what our volunteers do.

You are our coworkers, our friends and neighbors; and, on many occasions, you

are our lifesavers when we need your help! I hope you feel our overwhelming appreciation when we say it time and again—you are an immeasurable part of the City of Kettering team. When we see each other, it's like a family reunion, and the relationships we share are unique and special.

Because of all of you, my 16 years as Mayor and 8 spent on City Council have been more fulfilling than I ever imagined. Together, we have turned dreams into effective initiatives to better our community and City operations. During these past 24 years in public office, I've been honored to work alongside all of you who dedicate countless hours to our Volunteer Program. One of the many initiatives I treasure each year is Make a Difference Day when we join forces to tackle neighborhoods and areas that need a hand right in our own community. As a team, we started this annual event, and I think we've made incredible strides not only helping areas that need it, but

further strengthening this community.

Although I'll soon be leaving public office, I will never forget the team responsible for making my journey an incredible one.



And, for these blessings, I thank you. For our times spent in the cold, pouring rain sprucing up neighborhoods, thank you. For spending your Christmases at Polen Farm so that others could feel the joy everyone deserves, thank you. And, for the conversations I'll never forget and the friends that we've become, thank you. I am the lucky one.

This is so long, not goodbye. I will see you soon.

Mayor Donald E. Patterson



## Time for Fall Fun!

Join us at the start of September for the annual Kettering Block Party on Thursday, September 2 from 6 – 8 p.m. There will be music, Dilly bars, hot dogs, and plenty of smiling faces! Stop by the Volunteer Tent to pick up a special "Thank You" gift for all you do throughout the year!

Then, join our annual Employee Council picnic on Thursday, September 16 from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Boxed lunches from Firehouse Subs will be available to enjoy outside at Polen Farm, or you can drive through and pick up your lunch to take home. To ensure we have enough food, please call (937) 296-3394 or email [nick.sorice@ketteringoh.org](mailto:nick.sorice@ketteringoh.org)

with your RSVP by Friday, September 3, and indicate if you prefer ham, turkey, roast beef, or veggie. Polen Farm is located at 5099 Bigger Road. We hope to see you at one or both of these fall events!



 Kettering *is home* to Volunteer Spirit

# Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

The annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon will be held **Thursday, November 18** at noon at Presidential Banquet Center, 4548 Presidential Way. Following lunch, Mayor Donald E. Patterson will present certificates and awards based on your cumulative hours from the time you first registered as a volunteer through June 30, 2021. Certificates will be presented for each 100 hours you have volunteered. Gifts will be presented at 500-hour increments. Everyone will receive a token of appreciation for his or her service.

Invitations will be mailed soon. In order to plan for the luncheon, **reservations are a must**. We will need your reply card by **November 4**. Please plan to join the celebration!

This year we look forward to coming together to celebrate, but will continue to monitor the situation with COVID-19, and will implement any health and safety recommendations put into place by the County and State health departments. We will keep open communication as the date gets closer, and please reach out with questions or concerns.



## Make A Difference Day Saturday, October 23 from 9 a.m. – Noon



We are excited about the upcoming **National Make A Difference Day!** There are projects indoors and outdoors, suitable for individuals as well as groups of volunteers such as scouts, service clubs, sports teams, student groups and faith-based organizations. Volunteers helping with either project must be accompanied by an adult if they are under age 14.

A light breakfast will be provided at both locations.

### Outdoor Project

Assist with invasive honeysuckle removal and other outdoor projects at the Habitat Environmental Center.

Location: Habitat Environmental Center  
3036 Bellflower Street



Additional locations may also be added, so stay tuned!

### Card Crafting

Create holiday greeting cards to be distributed by Blue Star Mothers to our active duty military serving throughout the world. Also create holiday placemats to be donated to area nursing homes.

Location: Christ Church United Methodist  
3440 Shroyer Road



## SHRED DAY

Do you have an abundance of paperwork at your house you would like to be without? Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 2 from 9 a.m. – noon for a free, confidential document shredding service at the Kettering Government Center, 3600 Shroyer Road. Please note this service is for household shredding only, not commercial or business. Place papers in a box or other non-plastic container. Extra hands will be available to help unload your vehicle.



# New and Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking to spice up your volunteer options, or know someone who might be interested in volunteering? We need your help!

If you love Pickleball, consider joining the Pickle Pals! This group will help monitor courts, assist and assimilate new players to the game, and create a sense of camaraderie among the players. Pickleball Courts are located at Kennedy Park, 5073 Bigger Road.

Calling all birders! Do you have a passion for bird watching and want to share those skills with young birders? The Habitat Environmental Center located at 3036 Bellflower Street is recruiting folks like you to join the Young Birders Support Team to inspire appreciation of birds and the natural world for youth age 12 to 17. There will be planning workshops this fall to help develop this new program. Meeting dates will be set after gauging interest.

Mail couriers are essential to daily interdepartmental communication throughout the City. This requires driving a city vehicle, and visiting multiple offices each shift. If you enjoy interacting with a variety of individuals, and having a set time frame for helping, this may be the position for you!



Christmas Day at Polen Farm has been an annual tradition for over 40 years! The Christmas Day Committee will soon begin planning this event held on Christmas Day from 1 – 4 p.m. If you have holiday cheer to spare, we would love to have your help!

Why not recruit a friend to volunteer and enjoy a few hours outdoors this spring to check the identification of folks visiting the city's free compost site on Stroop Road? Shifts are once a week for 2 – 3 hours. Our residents will thank you for working to ensure only who are eligible receive free mulch.

Do you have a little free time in the evening or on weekends? We can use your help with our special events and activities sponsored by our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. These are great opportunities to assist with activities for children and families. You're sure to have a little fun while helping with these wonderful programs!

**For additional information or to get involved with these opportunities, please contact Dawn at 937-296-2531 or by email at [dawn.kirchner@ketteringoh.org](mailto:dawn.kirchner@ketteringoh.org).**

## Neighborhood Pride Comes to A Close

We had another wonderful year of viewing property nominations from neighborhoods throughout the City. Homes selected are recognized as outstanding examples of well cared for and updated homes. Be sure to check out the City of Kettering website to view all the 2021 winners, as well as winners from previous years. 2021 winners will receive recognition at the September 28 City Council Meeting. Thank you to the Neighborhood Pride Co-Chairs: Rob Jahn, Gail Carone, Mark and Carol Messer, and Committee members: Kathy Waker, Jim Bolton, Del and Ginny Herbeck, Maureen Willits, Chuck Dickerson, Gale Heller, Pat Ferguson, April Mason, and Donna Speers, for their many hours of reviewing nominations!



## Update Your Contact Info!

Has it been a while since you have received email notifications? Have you recently moved and forwarding is taking much longer than it should? Please contact the Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433 or email [dawn.kirchner@ketteringoh.org](mailto:dawn.kirchner@ketteringoh.org) with any contact changes. We want to share success stories and make sure you know all the wonderful ways you can be involved with the City.



CITY OF KETTERING  
Kettering Mayor & Council

**Don Patterson, Mayor**

Don.Patterson@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 937.545.0008

**Tony Klepacz, Vice Mayor, District 3**

Tony.Klepacz@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 937. 435.9830

**Jacqueline Fisher, At Large**

Jacque.Fisher@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 937. 232.1637

**Bill Lautar, At Large**

Bill.Lautar@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 937. 689.2205

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

KetteringMayorCouncil@ketteringoh.org . 937. 296.2416

**District 2 (vacant) election to be held in Nov. 2021**

KetteringMayorCouncil@ketteringoh.org . 937. 296.2416

**Bruce E. Duke, District 4**

Bruce.Duke@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 937. 299.2259

**Mark Schwieterman, City Manager**

Mark.Schwieterman@ketteringoh.org .937. 296.2412

**Steven Bergstresser, Assistant City Manager**

Steven.Bergstresser@ketteringoh.org .937. 296.2412

Council Office Phone Number: 937.296.2416

Council Email: KetteringMayorCouncil@ketteringoh.org

Kettering Home Page: www.ketteringoh.org

## Hello from the New Volunteer Administrator



Greetings City of Kettering Volunteers! I am so very pleased to be a part of this impressive program! I have had the pleasure of working with volunteers throughout my 18 year career in non-profit education and leadership, and look forward to focusing all my attention on continuing the tradition of service in the City of Kettering!

Although I have been here since mid-July, I still have many faces and names to learn! I hope to see many of you at upcoming community events like The Block Party, Make a Difference Day, Christmas at Polen Farm, and at the Volunteer Luncheon in November! If you ever have questions, comments, observations, or ideas, please don't hesitate to reach out! Thank you for sharing your talents and passion with the Kettering Community. You make this a wonderful place to be!

Dawn Kirchner  
Volunteer Administrator

