

CONTACT with Kettering

Community Magazine Spring 2022




CITY OF KETTERING *is home*

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Mayor's Welcome

Dear Neighbors:

On November 2, 2021, I received one of the greatest honors of my life when you entrusted me to become Kettering's 11th Mayor. I will continually strive to be worthy of this honor with gratitude, humility and unabashed advocacy for the Kettering community.

As a resident and now Mayor, the health and livelihood of our city remains paramount. I am thrilled to work alongside dedicated City staff and City Council members to continue offering quality services and staying progressive.

It is no surprise that I have enormous shoes to fill as Don Patterson demonstrated 16 years of impeccable leadership in his role as Mayor in addition to 8 years as a member of City Council. The initiatives and plans he implemented made Kettering the city to emulate. Under his leadership, we grew one of the most valuable volunteer programs in our region, if not the nation. His work to improve the vitality of Wilmington Pike, the beauty and function of our parks, the building and renovations of public safety facilities, the revitalization of neighborhoods, redevelopment of business parks and the strengthening of infrastructure will forever be rich pieces of his legacy. But, four small words were the driving force behind everything he did. And, he offered those four words as sage advice to me--Listen to the people.

With your help, I intend to do just that. As residents, business owners and visitors, you are the stakeholders of this community. Your concerns, ideas and kudos are important factors in achieving successful results; and I look forward to hearing what you have to say. So, allow me to break the ice and introduce myself. I have lived in Kettering for most of my adult life with my husband, Jim. We raised five Kettering kids and are proud we chose to live here. I served three terms as an at-large City Council member, have likely spoken with many of you in the past and look forward to continued conversations. I served as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate; and, although these positions were wonderful experiences, it's good to be back home where I can more closely serve my community.

As your Mayor, I will continue to uphold quality service, spectacular amenities, sound infrastructure and economic development. Seeing what the City of Kettering has been doing to help people--renters, landlords, homebuyers and homeowners--who are feeling the negative impacts of COVID reconfirmed that my decision to run for Mayor was the right one. As you get to know me, whether it's through these publications, at Council meetings, at the grocery store or at community events, I hope you feel welcome, eager for productive, positive dialogue and know that you are in good hands.

I'm listening.

Peggy Lehner, Mayor

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Yard Debris Center
Opens Monday, March 7



Daylight Savings Time
Sunday, March 13

Compost/Mulch Available
Monday, April 11



Income Tax Deadline
Monday, April 18

Spring Leaf Collection
Begins Monday, April 18



CITY OF KETTERING

Kettering Mayor & Council

Peggy Lehner, Mayor

Peggy.Lehner@ketteringoh.org 937. 477.7640

Jacque Fisher, Vice Mayor, At Large

Jacque.Fisher@ketteringoh.org 937. 232.1637

Jyl Hall, At Large

Jyl.Hall@ketteringoh.org 937. 604.5341

Lisa Duvall, District 1

Lisa.Duvall@ketteringoh.org 937. 838.7425

Bob Scott, District 2

Bob.Scott@ketteringoh.org 937. 478.9910

Tony Klepacz, District 3

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Bruce E. Duke, District 4

Bruce.Duke@ketteringoh.org 937. 299.2259

Mark Schwieterman, City Manager

Mark.Schwieterman@ketteringoh.org . . 937. 296.3321

Steven Bergstresser, Assistant City Manager

Steven.Bergstresser@ketteringoh.org . . 937. 296.2414

Council Office

KetteringMayorCouncil@ketteringoh.org . 937. 296.2416

www.ketteringoh.org

@Kettering_OH

City of Kettering, Ohio – Government

Visit www.ketteringoh.org and sign up to receive **The Starter**—Kettering's monthly e-newsletter.



Changes in City Council



Council Member Bill Lautar Finishes Final Term of Service

Bill Lautar completed his eighth, and final, year of service as a member of Kettering City Council December 31, 2021. Friends and colleagues attended the last Council meeting in 2021 to celebrate Bill's dedication to Kettering residents and business owners.

Bill was an At-Large Council Member serving all residents in the Kettering community beginning in 2014. During his tenure, Bill advocated for optimal quality of life for all Kettering residents; and, he had a profound impact on local youth from his work with the summer lunch program at Trails of Oak Creek, Optimists Kids Day in the Park and Family Fun Fest at Trent Arena.

Bill made certain our parks and community have plenty of trees to enhance the scenic beauty of our city by helping to plant trees on Make A Difference Day. He took special interest in Kettering's bike paths and worked to ensure the community supported this mode of transportation. Bill showed us the true meaning of public service and the difference one person can make by speaking up and taking action.

Thank you, Councilman Lautar, for your exemplary service and devotion to the Kettering community. Best wishes for a bright and rewarding future filled with good health and happiness.



Introducing Council Member Jyl Hall, At Large

Jyl Hall has worked for over 20 years at the intersection of education and economic development. Currently, Jyl works as an adjunct professor at United Theological Seminary. Her previous experience with hunger-fighting organizations includes World Vision, World Relief and the Congressional Hunger Center.

She serves on multiple boards including County Corp, Faith Forward, Dayton Chamber of Commerce's Legislative and Economic Development Committees, and as a trustee with Miami Valley Goodwill Easter Seals.

Jyl received her PhD from Asbury Seminary where her research focus was economic challenges in Dayton, Ohio. She and her husband, Ryan Smith, have two young children in Kettering public schools, and their family served as missionaries in the country of North Macedonia.



Introducing Council Member Lisa Duvall, District 1

Lisa Duvall graduated from Bowling Green State University where she majored in Education and minored in History and Political Science. After being a stay-at-home mom for eight years, Lisa re-entered the workforce.

She is an EDI Coordinator at Edict Systems, a locally-owned software company in Beavercreek.

Duvall is a single mom to three kids--Michael (19), Ellie (19) and Alex (16). Lisa's parents and sister live in Columbus.

As a 15-year resident of Kettering, Lisa has always lived in District 1. "I love this district and the people. I wanted to be a voice on Council for my neighbors. I'm someone who can identify with those who have lived at the lower end of the income scale and felt Council needed that perspective. It is an honor to be elected to City Council by my neighbors."

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Introducing Council Member Bob Scott, District 2

Bob Scott is a Kettering Fairmont West Class of 1976 graduate. He attended Sinclair Community College, as well.

Council Member Scott has dedicated his entire working career to the military/aerospace supply industry in sales and marketing, project management and vice president/general manager positions. Scott currently works for BJG Electronics, as well as Scott Associates.

Bob is married to Letty. He has three children—Rob, Lauren and Sarah and three grandsons, Brayden, Jax and a newborn.

Scott stated that Kettering has been good to three generations of Scotts dating back to Van Buren Township in the World War II era. "I wanted to try, in some manner, to pay back the city by using my business experience to help maintain and improve Kettering's standard of excellence for my fellow citizens and business owners."



Jacqueline Fisher
Vice Mayor, At Large
2018 – Present



Tony Klepacz
District 3
2007 – Present



Bruce E. Duke
District 4
1986 – Present

Council Meetings are Every Second and Fourth Tuesday of Each Month at 7:30 p.m. at 3600 Shroyer Road

Population

Council District	1990	2000	2010	2020
D-1	15,145	14,651	14,010	14,039
D-2	15,212	14,469	14,135	14,941
D-3	14,969	14,035	13,548	14,159
D-4	15,243	14,564	14,421	14,791
Total	60,569	57,719	56,114	57,930

Not the official Census numbers. Based upon block level data.

Council Members

At Large:
Mayor Lehner
Vice Mayor Fisher
Hall

D-1 Duvall
D-2 Scott
D-3 Klepacz
D-4 Duke

This information is being provided pursuant to the requirements of Kettering City Charter, Section 3-5(C). Mayor and Council 2021 total compensation (salary and related benefits: PERS, Medicare and Workers' Compensation).

Mayor Don Patterson \$13,996.14

Council Members:

Bruce E. Duke, Jacqueline Fisher,

Tony Klepacz & Bill Lautar \$9,330.76 (Each)

Lisa Duvall & Bob Scott \$717.77 (Each)

Joseph D. Wanamaker \$5,024.38

Rob Scott (Now Clerk of Courts) \$789.50

Closed Captioning Services Arrive for Government Access Channels 5 and 6

Cable subscribers in the Miami Valley will now have enhanced viewing choices when watching local government programs on the Miami Valley Communications Council (MVCC) channels 5 and 6. Beginning in January 2022, residents of Centerville, Germantown, Kettering, Miamisburg, Moraine, Oakwood, Springboro and West Carrollton can select Closed Captioning for a video option when watching virtually any program on these two government access channels.

In October of 2021, MVCC's eight member cities and the MVCC Council approved a resolution to invest approximately \$100,000 for this technology. The resolution ensures that MVCC is compliant with the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, providing accessible television services to all Americans with disabilities.

ENCO, a leading captioning solution in several industries, has been selected to provide the service.

Enco's enCaption technology allows for live real-time captions and identifies when someone new is speaking. Captions can be created in foreign languages and also produce live, foreign language translations.

"We're always looking at innovative ways to enhance our television channels for the Miami Valley viewers, and closed caption technology is the next step forward," said Ray Gambrel, MVCC Government Programming Supervisor. "Residents will now be able to watch live City Council meetings

with subtitles, along with all of the 24/7 programming content that MVCC provides on our government channels."

The Miami Valley Communications Council currently operates four cable access channels with cable providers Spectrum TV and AT&T TV. Complete program schedule listings, as well as on-demand viewing, can be found at www.mvcc.video.

MVCC was formed in 1976 as a council of governments representing the eight member cities of Centerville, Germantown, Kettering, Miamisburg, Moraine, Oakwood, Springboro and West Carrollton.



Your 2021 City of Kettering Income Tax Return is Due on April 18, 2022

The Tax Division recently mailed the 2021 City of Kettering Income Tax postcard. In an effort to reduce costs related to paper, printing and postage, please note that **NO TAX FORMS WILL BE MAILED TO YOU.** Forms are available on our website at www.ketteringoh.org, or you may utilize one of the alternative filing methods described below. To avoid late filing fees, your 2021 return must be received in our office or postmarked by April 18, 2022.

Who Must File

All residents (including part-year residents) of the City of Kettering who are 18 years of age and older are required to file an annual income tax return. A return is required regardless of income or employment status. Please note: Active duty military personnel and individuals with no reportable income or loss for the current year are still subject to the mandatory filing requirements.

Non-residents earning income from which Kettering tax has not been withheld at the correct rate of 2.25% must file a return. Income includes salaries, wages, compensation or profits which result from work performed, services rendered, business transacted or activities located within the City of Kettering.

Exceptions to Mandatory Filing Requirement

Permanently retired or permanently disabled individuals with only non-taxable sources of income or loss (such as social security, pension, interest and dividends) may file for a permanent exemption from the mandatory filing requirement by completing the Declaration of Exemption Return found on our website.

Filing Methods

There are several convenient options for filing your city income tax return. Electronic filing and fill-in forms are available on our website at www.ketteringoh.org.

• Individuals with only wage income reported on Form W-2 are eligible to file electronically. All other individuals may utilize the fill-in forms.

• Additionally, you may visit the Income Tax Division office, located at 3600 Shroyer Road, Kettering, OH 45429, to obtain forms or have your Kettering return prepared by one of our staff members. This service is free of charge, and no appointment is necessary. Note that you must bring with you the required documentation referenced below in order for your return to be prepared. The Tax Division is unable to print information from your phone, laptop or other electronic devices.

Required Document

• As required under state law, the Federal Form 1040 must be attached to the City of Kettering Income Tax Return at the time of filing.

• Additional supporting documentation that is required to be attached includes, but is not limited to, Form(s) W-2 (if applicable), Federal Schedules 1 and C, E, F or K-1, Form(s) 1099-Misc, Form(s) 1099-NEC and Form(s) W-2G.

• Part-year residents should also include pay statements reflecting year-to-date figures relating to the period of time you resided within the City.

Online Payment System

An online payment system is available for the payment of tax balances, estimated tax payments and payment plan payments via electronic check, credit card or debit card. Please note, a convenience fee will be added to all credit and debit card payments.

Contact Information

Mail your return to:

• City of Kettering Income Tax Division
• P.O. Box 639409
• Cincinnati, OH 45263-9409

Physical location:

• 3600 Shroyer Road
• North Building
• Kettering, OH 45429

Business Hours:

• Monday-Friday
• 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

• Phone: (937) 296-2502

• Fax: (937) 296-3242

• Website: www.ketteringoh.org

• Email: ketteringtax@ketteringoh.org

• *The information contained herein is illustrative only. The City of Kettering Income Tax Code and the Ohio Revised Code supersede any interpretation presented.*



SPRING SPRUCE UP CHECKLIST



Spring is an ideal time to accomplish projects that improve your home's curb appeal. Here is a checklist of projects that can make a big difference:

- ☐ Clear out landscape beds and put down fresh mulch. Mulch and compost are available free for Kettering residents in the spring at Indian Riffle Park.
- ☐ Trim trees and shrubs. Remember that they may not overhang sidewalks or streets. Remove overgrown and invasive shrubs. Yard debris may be placed in your Rumpke cart for collection on your regular trash day or it can be taken to the Yard Debris Center beginning March 7.
- ☐ Repair broken, cracked or deteriorated siding or trim.
- ☐ Repaint areas with cracked and peeling paint.
- ☐ Seal doors and windows to improve energy efficiency and prevent drafts.
- ☐ Check the roof for peeling or missing shingles and loose flashing.
- ☐ Check gutters and downspouts for debris. Repair any leaks or damage.
- ☐ Dispose of unlicensed or inoperable vehicles.
- ☐ Mow the grass and weed the landscaping on a regular basis. Grass must not exceed a height of 8".
- ☐ Regularly remove trash and yard debris and clean up after pets.
- ☐ Avoid erosion by seeding bare spots in the yard.
- ☐ Check fences and sheds, replace and repair broken or rotting sections. Repaint as necessary. Clean up areas along your property that are adjacent to public streets and alleys.
- ☐ Don't store household furniture or appliances outdoors. Keep items meant to be stored outdoors in a neat and orderly appearance.
- ☐ Replace or repair missing or damaged entry doors and garage overhead doors.
- ☐ Check hinges or latches on windows and doors to ensure they function properly.
- ☐ Check for loose or cracked mortar joints in brickwork.
- ☐ Make sure steps and walkways are in good condition, free from debris, cracks, holes and flaking concrete.
- ☐ Check house foundation and walls for cracks or breaks.
- ☐ Check windows and doors for broken glass, torn screens and deteriorated or loose frames, sills or sashes.

You should annually evaluate the condition of your property to identify needed repairs. A lot of money can be saved by correcting problems before they become major repairs.

If you need financial assistance with the cost of making repairs to your home in Kettering, we may be able help. The City of Kettering has programs to assist low and moderate income families with emergency repairs, minor repairs and comprehensive rehabs. To qualify, your household must meet established income limits; and, typically your home should have some built-up equity. If you are interested in any of these programs or need more information, please call **Andria Perkins at 937-296-3308**.

**Kettering
Yard Debris Center
will open for the season
Monday, March 7.**

**Spring leaf pickup will
be the week of
Monday, April 18.**



Ridgeway Bridge and Landscape Reflect Kettering's Beauty

It's easy to get into a routine and not notice something as mundane as a bridge, but the bridge on Ridgeway Road in Kettering over Dorothy Lane is worth appreciating. The City of Kettering's Engineering department completed the reconstruction of the bridge, and the next phase is to plan the surrounding landscaping.

The City of Kettering Parks Division has been working with The Kleingers Group to incorporate plant life that complements the artwork attached to the bridge. Cliff Garten Studios designed the laser cut flora and fauna steel panels to mimic the natural landscape in the adjacent neighborhood and nearby Hills and Dales Park.

Many of the same plant materials that were incorporated into the design on the steel panels will be planted around the bridge such as Dogwoods, Honey Locusts, Oaks, Maples, and Redbuds. Purple and yellow hues will stand out in the landscape

with perennials like Rudbeckia, Sage, and Catmint. Winter color and texture will be highlighted with native winterberry and juniper.

Parks Superintendent Gary Schussler notes that many residents have commented about the beautiful bright Oakleaf Hydrangeas that were in the previous landscape, so he was sure to include those again in this design. By taking the surrounding environment and bridge artwork into consideration, all components will tie together visually.

Planting on a slope by a bridge takes some creativity and research. Schussler states, "Not only do we want to beautify the area, but we need to be mindful about how we will maintain it effectively and efficiently." To account for this, the Parks Division is incorporating additional stone and natural hardscape to add an aesthetic component where growing plant material would be difficult.



Between the artwork and landscaping design that both consider the surrounding environment, this is a bridge you'll want to walk over to really appreciate how engineering, art and nature have come together to rebuild infrastructure.

Construction Updates

The City is prepared for a busy 2022, for construction activities, particularly with roadway repair. Construction to widen County Line Road will resume in spring and will be completed in summer. The project was awarded nearly \$2.5 million in federal funds. Approximately \$6.6 million will be utilized repairing city streets, with \$1 million of that from state gas tax and \$2 million from American Rescue Plan Act funding. Seven traffic signals will be replaced, utilizing up to \$1.4 million in federal funding. For future year projects, Kettering was awarded state and federal funding to replace the Flesher Avenue Bridge and repair the West Avenue Bridge, respectively.

Traffic Signal Replacements – Phase 2

This project is complete. Kettering was awarded nearly \$1.2 million in federal funds to reconstruct traffic signals at six intersections. Locations include:

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

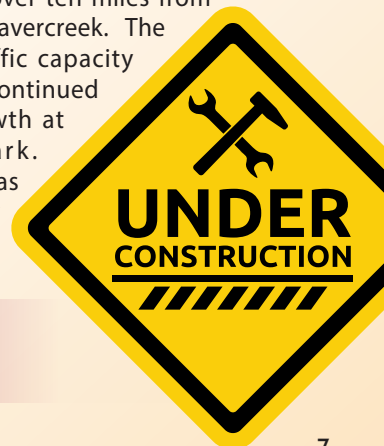
CenterPoint Energy Gas Main Replacements

CenterPoint Energy plans nine gas main replacement projects in Kettering this year, and is finalizing restoration on several from 2021. Because the work involves restoration of pavement and yards, Kettering requires CenterPoint Energy's contractor to obtain permits for each location of work in the right-of-way.

County Line Road Widening

Construction work to widen County Line Road started in June 2021, and will be complete this year. The contractor completed work on the east side of the roadway and shifted traffic to this side in preparation for work this coming spring on the west side of the roadway.

Because this project borders two counties and two cities, coordination has been, and will continue to be, more involved. Upon completion of this final link, the corridor will provide two lanes in each direction for over ten miles from Moraine to Beaver Creek. The increased traffic capacity will support continued business growth at Research Park. The project was awarded nearly \$2.5 million in federal funds.



For more information on these projects, and others, go to:
www.ketteringoh.org/current-road-construction-project-updates/



Kettering Police Department Updates

KPD Welcomes Two New Officers



Welcome Officer Jacob Strehle (left) and Officer Joseph Lang (right) to the Kettering Police Department! Officer Strehle comes to KPD from the Cleveland Police Department, and Officer Lang comes from Sinclair Community College Police Department.

We look forward to these officers becoming tremendous assets to the Kettering team and the citizens we serve.

Retirement Announcement



Officer Gina Bier retired from the Kettering Police Department. Officer Bier joined KPD on June 5, 1995 and has served the citizens of Kettering with the utmost honor and courage during her career. Officer Bier has had a major positive impact on our police department and the community throughout her years of service. Officer Bier served above and beyond expectation, and she will be missed. We are grateful for the protection she provided and wish her the best of luck.



Kettering Police Officers were issued body worn cameras, and training was completed for use while on patrol. These cameras have already proven to be a great tool for officers and provide another asset for the community they serve.



Saturday, April 30, is DEA National Take Back Day at the Kettering Police Department from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. This is a great way to safely dispose of old prescriptions with the exception of syringes and liquids. KPD has a permanent drop-off box in their lobby for use 24/7, as well.



The Kettering Regional SWAT Team is anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Lenco Bearcat G3 Rescue Vehicle (photo for example only). This vehicle will heighten officer safety and further protect the citizens of Kettering. The Regional SWAT Team includes Kettering, Oakwood, Miamisburg, Germantown, West Carrollton, Centerville, Moraine and Springboro.

Introducing Fire Marshal Stitzel

The Kettering Fire Department is thrilled to welcome Fire Marshal Duane Stitzel to their team. Fire Marshal Stitzel comes to Kettering from the Dayton International Airport where he served as the Fire Chief.

Duane's fire service career spans more than three decades including service to the City of Vandalia, City of Springfield and the U.S. Air Force.

Outside of work, Fire Marshal Stitzel can be found spending time with his family and enjoying the outdoors.



Severe Weather Preparedness

Severe thunderstorms and high winds can damage above ground power lines and turn unsecured objects into hazardous flying debris. Here are safety tips to follow before, during and after severe weather events.

Before High Wind Event:

- Secure all outdoor items like patio furniture, grills, trash cans, etc.
- Keep trees trimmed and free of weak or damaged limbs.

During High Wind Event:

- Remain in a protective structure away from windows and flying debris.
- Report any damaged wires from utility poles to AES Ohio.
- Call 911 to report any fires or arcing wires.

After High Wind Event:

- Stay away from wires that have fallen and report to AES Ohio.
- Call 911 to report any fires or arcing wires.
- Treat any wires as if they are energized.
- Contact a licensed and insured professional to clear fallen or unstable trees or large limbs.



Welcome back to the Team, Rob!

Retired Kettering Fire Captain Rob Hessinger is serving the team once again. Rob is a Fire and Life Safety Inspector in the Fire Prevention Bureau.



SIGN UP for
CODE RED

In addition to our City of Kettering Facebook and Twitter posts, we also use a system called **Code Red** to notify our residents and those who work in Kettering of emergency incidents and critical community alerts. When you enroll in **Code Red**, you may opt to receive alerts on your home or cell phone, by email and by text. Please note that because of the emergency nature of some alerts, notices may be received at all hours. You can easily

decide later to opt out from receiving future alerts. Text the word KETTERING to 99411 to enroll or visit our website at www.ketteringoh.org. If you know someone without internet access who may be interested, please have them call 937-296-2400 for assistance.





Kettering and Day Air Launch Programs to Help Homeowners

The City of Kettering is pleased to partner with Day Air Credit Union to offer two new programs to help Kettering residents achieve affordable and sustainable homeownership and to offer home improvement options.

The First-Time Homebuyer Assistance Program and the Home Improvement Assistance Program will provide low-interest, forgivable loans to help offset down payment and renovation costs for current and future Kettering residents.

First-Time Homebuyer Assistance Program

The First-Time Homebuyer Assistance Program is designed to help renters and low to moderate income households reduce the financial burden of getting their first home. The program will provide up to 10% down payment and cover closing costs up to \$20,000 when paired with a Day Air Mortgage product. Day Air has agreed to provide special financing and terms for the remainder of the program.

"Day Air is proud to make a difference in the communities we serve," said Bill Burke, President and CEO. "Working with the City of Kettering to help make the financial dreams of our members and our community more achievable is core to who we are." Learn more about the First-Time Homebuyer Assistance program at dayair.org/firsthome

Home Improvement Assistance Program

The Home Improvement Assistance Program aims to help Kettering residents make needed and wanted home upgrades that enhance property value. Program funds can be put toward a large list of exterior and interior home improvements as approved by the City of Kettering. Kettering residents utilizing this program will get a special low rate home improvement loan from Day Air in addition to a forgivable loan of 40% of the cost, up to \$20,000. Learn more about the Home Improvement Assistance Program including qualification details at dayair.org/improvehome

City Manager Mark Schwieterman said, "We're passionate about providing resources for our community that enhance the lives of everyone who chooses to call Kettering home. We're excited to partner with Day Air to provide affordable and sustainable opportunities for Kettering residents to enjoy homeownership."



City Continues to Tout Wilmington Pike Improvement Program to Bring New Investment to Kettering

Economic news for Kettering and the larger Dayton region continues to be strong in 2022 with numerous companies announcing plans to grow and expand. Kettering is seeing interest in all corners of our city, putting new pressure on the real estate market as entrepreneurs look for unique places to locate.

Through this boom, the City continues to promote the Wilmington Pike Improvement Plan as an opportunity for private business and the public sector to work together to redevelop certain properties along the Wilmington Pike corridor. From this initiative, the City created two programs that provide

funding for businesses that are already located along Wilmington Pike and want to invest in their current site, or for those looking to open a new business along Wilmington.

The first program, the Wilmington Pike Demolition Program, provides funding to commercial and residential property owners to assist in the demolition of structures and clearance of sites to be redeveloped; to encourage economic development; or to remove non-conforming structures or blight. Property owners can enter into an agreement with the City and be reimbursed for up to 50 percent of the demolition cost, up to \$25,000.

In addition, the Wilmington Pike Façade & Site Improvement Program is available for exterior building façade or site improvements to bring buildings and site into conformance with the Kettering Zoning Code. Commercial and residential land owners are eligible to be reimbursed for up to 50 percent of improvement costs, up to \$25,000.

If you are interested in learning more about the eligibility requirements for either program, contact Amy Schrimpf, the City's Economic Development Manager at aschrimpf@ketteringoh.org or 937-296-3342.

Congratulations to Starwin Industries Awarded Montgomery County ED/GE Grant

The City of Kettering congratulates Starwin Industries for recently being one of 8 projects in Montgomery County to be awarded a 2021 ED/GE grant.

In December, Montgomery County Commissioners approved a resolution authorizing the \$150,000 grant for Starwin Industries to make improvements and consolidate operations at its facility on Woodman Drive. As part of this project, the company will add 30,000 square feet to the facility, purchase new machinery and equipment, and make improvements to the roof and parking lot. Overall, 95 new jobs are expected to be created over the next 3 to 5 years to support this project.

Starwin Industries specializes in composite manufacturing, complex assemblies, prototyping, and reverse engineering. The company is a qualified manufacturer of radomes and aircraft components to spaceflight hardware and unique custom projects for the Department of Defense (DoD).

According to Starwin Industries President and CEO Matthew Eberhardt, the company is pursuing several new DoD program of record contracts across several Tier 1 and Tier 2 contractors in support of Navy, Army and Air Force programs, creating the need for the local investments.

Many residents may already know that Starwin Industries began its 50-year journey right here in Kettering as a small, family owned tool and machine shop. Founded in 1960 by Tony and Norman Staub, the company started out building scale models, including one-third scale models of the Apollo Lunar Module – the lander that carried Neil Armstrong to the moon. Today, Starwin is a national leader in complex machining, composite components, and advanced manufacturing and is committed to investing in industry-leading technology to provide the highest level of quality and service to customers.

**Starwin will be hiring to support the expansion.
Learn more about available positions here:
www.starwin-ind.com/about/careers**



We Care Arts Takes Advantage of Wilmington Pike Improvement Plan Grant Program



We Care Arts is the latest Kettering organization to take advantage of the Wilmington Pike Improvement Plan and receive a grant from the City for exterior building façade or site improvements.

The funding was used to paint the facility, add cedar accents to the building façade, and upgrade the landscaping at the We Care Arts studio, which is located at 3035 Wilmington Pike.

As a charitable organization that serves more than 1200 clients at more than 40 off-site locations within the Dayton area, We Care Arts believes in the healing power of creating and producing art that transforms physical, developmental, and mental challenges into a future rich with possibilities.

According to Darlene Langhout-Nelson, Executive Director of We Care Arts, the grant was used to provide a more modern look to the facility. "We are grateful to the City of Kettering for this funding as it helped us to refresh the facade of the building. We believe our building now better compliments the neighboring businesses."

If your organization is located in the Wilmington Pike corridor and you would like to learn more about the eligibility requirements for the Wilmington Pike Improvement Plan, please contact Amy Schimpf, the City of Kettering's Economic Development Manager at amy.schimpf@ketteringoh.org or 937-296-3342.

Volunteers Make the World a Brighter Place!



We were delighted to be able to honor our volunteers in person this fall on November 18! The event was made available as a hybrid, offering two ways for volunteers to celebrate. From 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., volunteers were able to drive through and pick up a hot boxed lunch, thank you gift, and safely interact with Mayor Patterson, other members of City Council and City staff. At Noon, volunteers attending in person enjoyed a traditional roast turkey lunch, and Mayor Patterson awarded certificates and gifts to volunteers based on the number of hours contributed since they began volunteering for the City's program. Despite limited opportunities due to the pandemic, 316 volunteers were still able to contribute 6,352 hours of service, saving the City \$166,543! Fabulous door prizes were also given away thanks to the generosity of many local business owners!



All volunteers were invited to donate personal care items to Kettering Clean Care, dedicated to providing basic toiletry items to children in need in our community. Three large – and very heavy – boxes filled with a variety of items were gratefully accepted!

We look forward to offering more volunteer opportunities this year, and thank our volunteers for their continued dedication and commitment to the City of Kettering!

Mayor's Award for Volunteer Service

The Kettering Volunteer Advisory Council is currently seeking nominations for the Mayor's Award for Volunteer Service. This award is presented annually at a city council meeting during National Volunteer Week in April. Two awards are presented, one for an adult, and one for a youth volunteer.

The purpose of the award is to honor outstanding volunteers who are making valuable contributions to the community through volunteer service in a wide variety of categories such as health, recreation, arts, environment, education, public safety, civic service or other human services. In order to qualify for the award, the volunteer should either be a resident of Kettering, or the volunteer service should be performed in Kettering. The volunteer activity can be in a structured setting or on an informal basis. Groups are eligible as well. Applications will be accepted until March 1. Nomination forms are available at www.ketteringoh.org. Contact the Volunteer Office at 296-2433 for more details.

Volunteer Opportunities

The spring and summer months bring many opportunities to volunteer! These include greeting guests at Frazee Pavilion and assisting with our summer camps at Rosewood Arts Center and Habitat Environmental Center. We also have opportunities for schedulers and drivers for our senior transportation program. If you enjoy interacting with others and have some time available, call the Volunteer Office at 296-2433 to learn how you can be involved with these opportunities!



The mission of the Volunteer Kettering program is to offer citizens an opportunity to become involved in their city by assisting city staff in a variety of jobs, and organizing activities that expand programs, enhance services, build an understanding of city government and encourage community pride.

Kettering Volunteer Advisory Council

The Volunteer Advisory Council was formed in the early 80s to give suggestions and advice for promoting volunteerism in the City of Kettering. The Council shares insight and expertise while making recommendations on the role of the City in volunteerism. They lend support to the Volunteer Administrator in the development of the volunteer program.

Kari Basson, Coordinator of Community Relations, Kettering City Schools

Anna Breidenbach, Compliance and Inclusion Manager, City of Kettering (Staff Liaison)

Jey Ellis, Associate Partner, Coldwell Banker

Vice Mayor Jacque Fisher, Retired Program Manager, WPAFB (City Council Liaison)

Joan Fisher-Hatton, Manager, Retail Culinary Services, Kettering Medical Center

Becky Gentry, Attorney, Professional Development and Training Manager, WilmerHale

Sabrina Larson, Retired, Defense Finance and Accounting Service

Chris Wright, Service Director, Christ Church United Methodist

Christmas Day at Polen Farm Returns!



This Kettering tradition, like so many events, was canceled in 2020. However, with a little creativity, hard work, and adaptability, our Christmas Day Volunteer Team made this event not only happen, but flourish – providing a warm and welcoming location for members of our community to celebrate the spirit of the season together. Guests enjoyed a warm meal, holiday music and caroling, Christmas cookies, a train display, coloring fun, free

book store and photos with Santa! For those uncomfortable with interacting indoors, a special drive thru was offered complete with smiling faces, and holiday treat bags. Our sincere thanks to the more than 50 volunteers who gave their time to plan, set-up, deliver, and clean up an event that embodies the true meaning of Christmas! A heartfelt thank you also goes out to our community partners who help keep this event no cost for our guests:

- Day Air Credit Union
- Kohler Catering
- Cheryl's Cookies
- Marc's
- MCL Restaurant and Bakery
- Mary Ann Dodaro
- Mayor Donald E. Patterson
- Mikesell's
- Montgomery County Environmental Services

Make A Difference Day Success

For decades, National Make A Difference Day has successfully encouraged the involvement of individuals in being actively engaged as change makers in their communities. The City of Kettering is proud to participate in this annual event, held the fourth Saturday in October. This year, 68 volunteers came together to plant 115 red oak seedlings donated by Cox Arboretum, and removed invasive honeysuckle from the trails at the Habitat Environment Center. Volunteers also helped create holiday greeting cards to be distributed throughout the world to our active duty military through Blue Star Mothers. A total of 75 hours were contributed from home by 37 volunteers who contributed 430 cards. At Christ Church United Methodist, a total of 68 hours were contributed by 25 volunteers to create another 44 holiday cards, as well as 44 place mats to be distributed to area nursing homes.

A total of 130 volunteers of all ages, representing 12 organizations came together to donate 382 hours of time! This generosity improved the health of our outdoor environment for all to enjoy, and their creativity will enlighten the lives of others locally and globally!



Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Projects Are Taking Off!

Kettering's Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts had a busy 2021. From overseeing facility upgrades to adding new landscapes, every division has been hard at work to make Kettering beautiful. Several key projects are now well underway, and 2022 promises to be even busier. Here's what we're up to this spring:

The first phases of Rosewood Arts Center's renovation process are nearly complete. The initial phases began in 2021 and included updates to the building exterior and mechanical systems, as well as the new lobby, gallery, office suites and youth art spaces. Phase 2 takes place this year and will focus on adding specialized studio spaces and improving classrooms. Rosewood's new main entrance is also nearing completion with a target opening set for this May.

The Rosewood Arts Center upgrades are being carried out in phases to create as little disruption as possible to Rosewood's programs and patrons. The facility remains open for business with classes and programs ongoing.

The much-anticipated landscaping for the new Ridgeway Road Bridge and at Lincoln Park Civic Commons has begun. At Lincoln Park Civic Commons, this spring's landscaping will update the entry way from Commons Way into the park across from the Mayor's Triangle, where the annual Mayor's Tree Lighting occurs. The area around the flag pole that was installed last year will also be renovated during this initial phase of the project.

The landscape design is also coming to life at the Ridgeway Road Bridge. Cliff Garten Studios designed the laser cut flora and fauna steel panels to mimic the natural landscape in the adjacent neighborhood and in nearby Hills and Dales Park. Many of the same plant materials that were incorporated into the design on the steel panels are currently being planted around the bridge.

The City of Kettering Parks Division has been working with The Kleingers Group on both of these landscaping projects.

Last, but definitely not least, our pickleball courts are expanding! To accommodate the growing popularity of pickleball in our region, our courts at John F. Kennedy Park are doubling in size from the current six courts to twelve planned courts. Resurfacing, new fencing, and many other necessary upgrades are also planned. These upgrades were made possible in part by the support of community members through the Kettering Parks Foundation, as well as through the generosity of the Lathrem family.

We hope you'll stop by this spring to see our completed projects and enjoy the brand-new facilities and landscapes we've created for you to enjoy!



Donor Ignites Exciting Changes at the Charles I. Lathrem Senior Center

A substantial gift from the Lathrem family in late 2021 is paving the way for big changes at the Charles I. Lathrem Senior Center in 2022. The gift, which totaled \$1 million, was made by Doug Lathrem, son of the CIL building's namesake, Charles I. Lathrem.

Planned updates to the CIL include two new vans for the Senior Transportation Program, upgrades to the facility's interior spaces, and updates to our outdoor spaces that are frequently used by seniors. New technology will help bring the CIL in line with what is offered at public libraries and similar agencies – for example, Smart TVs, video equipment and retractable screens to facilitate presentations. Comfortable furniture and a less-dated look for the building interior, plus new equipment for our very popular billiard program are also on the agenda.

Adjacent to the CIL is a shuffleboard/horseshoe area in need of some TLC. Resurfacing of the shuffleboard court is planned, plus brand new ways for seniors to stay active outdoors or just sit and enjoy some quiet time in nature.

A portion of the funds will also be used to renovate Kettering's pickleball courts at John F. Kennedy Park. Plans were already underway to resurface and expand these facilities. The Lathrem gift will help tremendously in expanding the number of courts from six to twelve in order to accommodate the growing enthusiasm for pickleball in our region. Pickleball is the choice sport for many active seniors locally.

Thank you to the Lathrem family for your continued support of senior programs in Kettering!



Brian Matus , *Homework*, 2020, oil on canvas

Play Dates

Join your Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts for fun this spring! These events are family friendly and free.

Details are at www.playkettering.org

Brian Matus
(Dayton, OH) Painting

Craig Fisher
(Toledo, OH) Prints

March 14 – April 22
Rosewood Gallery

TreeFest

Saturday, April 16
9 a.m. – Noon

Habitat Environmental Center

Kettering Community Garage Sale

Saturday, April 30
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Kettering Recreation Complex

Rosewood Arts Center presents Art on the Playground

Saturday, May 7

Habitat Environmental Center

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMPS!



March 7

Spring and Camp Program
Registration Begins for
Kettering Residents



March 14

Spring and Camp Program Registration
Begins for Non-Residents

Visit playkettering.org/camps

WE ARE HIRING!



JOIN THE KETTERING TEAM!

APPLY TODAY



SCAN ME

Are you ready to make a positive impact on the community and have fun doing it? We need fun, innovative and dedicated employees—like YOU—to make it happen.

Go to playkettering.org/jobs to learn more.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



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 Center 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
 Leah Cultice, 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.