



PUBLISHED FOR THE VOLUNTEERS OF KETTERING — FALL 2022

Letter from the Mayor



Dear Volunteers:

What a summer we've had! I've enjoyed meeting so many of you at events, around town, at City Council meetings and at the Government Center.

Hearing about your summer activities and the roles you play within our community—on and off the volunteer clock—truly inspires me. Along with the generous time and energy you contribute as a volunteer, your experience, ideas and friendship demonstrate the power of human connection and community. I know it's been said a hundred different ways; but, nothing makes me more proud than being part of such a service-driven community. I think it's safe to say that we all feel that way.

With autumn comes settling back into a routine, taking time to reset; and, dare I say, looking forward to the holiday season. As I near completion of my first

year as Kettering Mayor, I often reflect on the things we have accomplished together and the relationships that formed. My heart is full with gratitude and humility when I think of you and your selflessness. Because of you, our blessings are boundless.

I see you participating in the numerous festivals, concerts, community events and programs, and your stewardship and love for Kettering shows as you work to ensure these special opportunities are the absolute best they can be! The spirit of volunteering can truly be found here!

I am looking forward to serving all of you at the Volunteer Luncheon on November 17 and having the opportunity to thank all of you who help make Kettering home.

Until then, take care.

Peggy Lehner, Kettering Mayor

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Mark your calendar for the annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon to be held **Thursday, November 17** at the Presidential Banquet Center, 4548 Presidential Way at noon.

Following lunch, Mayor Peggy Lehner will present certificates and awards based on cumulative hours from the time you first registered as a volunteer through June 30, 2022. Certificates are presented for each 100 hours volunteered. Gifts will be presented at 500-hour increments. Everyone will receive a token of appreciation for their service.

Invitations will be mailed soon, and **reservations are required**. Please send your reply card by **November 4**, or call the Volunteer Office at (937) 296-2433. We look forward to seeing you then!

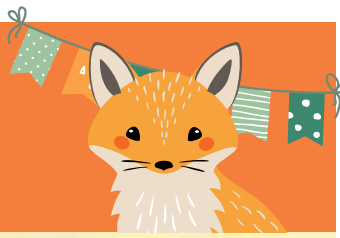
Employee Council Picnic

You are invited to join our annual Employee Council picnic on **Thursday, September 22** from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Boxed lunches from Firehouse Subs will be available to enjoy outside at Polen Farm, or take home. To ensure we have enough food, please call (937) 296-3394 or email nick.sorice@ketteringoh.org with your **RSVP by Wednesday, September 14**, and indicate if you prefer ham, turkey, roast beef, or veggie. Chips, cookie, and water are included. Polen Farm is located at 5099 Bigger Rd. We hope to see you there!



 Kettering is home to Volunteer Spirit

Youth Volunteers Recognized at the Habitat Center



We had our first Youth Volunteer Appreciation event Friday, August 12 at the Habitat Center. Skyline Chili Generously donated cones, and Dot's Market provided the materials needed for the fireside s'mores station. A variety of outdoor games were enjoyed on a beautiful summer evening. If you missed it, don't worry! We plan to have a variety of ways volunteers of all ages can enjoy a night out to celebrate the many ways you make Kettering a great place to be!



Volunteers made the summer better than ever!

As we continue to discover the "new normal", we know we could not do it without the help of all of you! Neighborhood Pride again honored 39 residents and businesses with awards. Frazee Pavilion returned to a full summer of shows. Summer camp participants attended field trips, nature hikes, and designed pieces of art. Dozens of volunteers worked to ensure guests enjoyed the annual Art on the Commons event. These events were just some of the ways volunteers participated throughout the City. Thanks to all of you that had a part in creating positive experiences and making wonderful memories of City of Kettering activities!



Conservation Team: Fall dates coming soon!

Get out and support conservation in Kettering! We are coordinating an assortment of dates, including some evening and weekends, for volunteers to assist with invasive Honeysuckle removal, as well as litter sweeps of local parks and waterways. Check the events page and your email for official dates!



The Volunteer Newsletter is Going Digital in 2023

As you all know, we introduced electronic newsletters earlier this year. Some of you opted in to ditch the paper for digital. However, as the cost of paper and postage continue to increase, and in an effort to reduce paper waste, we will convert to digital newsletters starting 2023. **If you still wish to receive a print newsletter, you must notify us by January 9, 2023. If you do not have email, you will continue to receive a printed version.**



LOOKING TO LEND A HAND THIS FALL?

There are a number of volunteer opportunities coming up suitable for youth, families, working adults, and retirees. We regularly update our events page making it easy to sign up any time: www.ketteringoh.org/volunteer-special-events, and we try to send email blasts with opportunities as they come up. Here's a few of the major events you may want to consider:

- **EcoFest: Saturday, September 17, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Participate in this brand new event focused on environmental education and sustainable living. A variety of volunteers are needed to assist with set up and tear down, face painting, welcome tent, and helping to recruit others to participate in a variety of conservation efforts City wide. This event will be held at Lincoln Park Civic Commons.

- **Shred Day: Saturday, October 1, 9 a.m. – Noon**

The City of Kettering will again be working in partnership with Day Air Credit Union and Montgomery County Environmental Services to offer this free event! We will need volunteers to help unload cars and break down cardboard boxes for recycling. Bring any items you need shredded with you! This event will be held at Fairmont High School.

- **Make A Difference Day: Saturday, October 22, 9 a.m. – Noon**

Join us during this national day of service to help others in our community! We have three opportunities available with both indoor and outdoor projects.

Indoor project:

Get creative and help make holiday greeting cards to be distributed by Blue Star Mothers to our active duty military serving throughout the world, and/or create holiday placemats to be donated to area nursing homes. This project will take place at Christ Church at 3440 Shroyer Rd.

Outdoor projects:

Provide assistance to neighbors in need of help with yard maintenance and cleanup. This project is in conjunction with the Cities of Service Initiative and will take place in the Van Buren Neighborhood (located north of Forrer Blvd., east of Smithville Rd., South of Patterson Rd.)

Help with the installation of a raingarden at Van Buren Park featuring an assortment of native trees, shrubs, and flowering pollinator plants.

We rely on many individuals to complete these projects, including groups of volunteers such as scouts, service clubs, sports teams, student groups and faith-based organizations. Volunteers helping with the outdoor project must be accompanied by an adult if they are under age 14.

Light refreshments will be provided, and outdoor projects happen rain or shine.

Don't miss this opportunity to join with others to truly "make a difference" in our community!

Can't make it out on the 22nd? Please consider calling the Volunteer Office to reserve your card making kit, complete with all the materials you need to make 10 holiday cards for Blue Star Mothers.

Interested in helping with one of these events? Please contact the City of Kettering Volunteer Office at 296-2433 or email dawn.kirchner@ketteringoh.org

ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL SUMMER IN KETTERING!

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. Check out the City of Kettering website to view all the 2022 winners, as well as winners from previous years. Winners will receive recognition at the September 27 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!





CITY OF KETTERING

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Christmas is coming!

Although we're just preparing for Pumpkin Spice and fall leaves, holiday lights and candy canes are just around the corner! We will again be hosting the annual Christmas Day Open House at Polen Farm on Christmas Day between 1 and 4 p.m. This holiday event is filled with good food, a variety of holiday songs and sounds, holiday cheer, and of course, Santa himself! This event is free for anyone to attend, and we'd love to make new holiday memories with you!

If you are interested in helping with this Kettering tradition by serving on the planning committee, or would like to help with set-up, tear-down, or the variety of activities the day of, please reach out to the Volunteer Office at (937) 296-2433, or visit our events page at: www.ketteringoh.org/volunteer-special-events to sign up.

