

# CONTACT with Kettering

Community Magazine Spring 2023



  
CITY OF KETTERING *is home*

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# Mayor's Welcome

Dear Neighbors:

As Mayor, one of my greatest honors is to sing your praises throughout the year. Admittedly, I am biased; but, the efforts from Kettering residents and City employees continue to tell the story of success, compassion and community pride. City of Kettering employees and residents alike have been honored with distinguished recognition demonstrating the heightened level of care we have for our community and one another.

As a community, we care about our resources. The City's Finance Department has been honored for 39 years with The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and for 37 years with The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. We are in good hands.

As a community, we care about protecting our environment. During 2022, the City of Kettering looked to the community to form a Sustainability Committee. The City of Kettering is committed to incorporating environmentally sustainable practices and initiatives through active research, education, discussion with residents and business owners, and continuous review of emerging technology and best practices. The Sustainability Committee will work with the City's internal KetterGreen Project staff to bring projects to fruition. The City offers events, such as Shred Day and prescription drop-off to include all residents in our quest for a sustainable future. Stay tuned to City publications and social media for upcoming events.

As a community, Kettering is proud to be a "Tree City USA". As you and your family venture out, take a moment to look around at all the trees in our beautiful parks. From the Osage Orange at Ernst Park to the Cottonwood at Lincoln Park, it is easy to see that we are truly a city that enjoys trees with a Parks Division who happily provides them. In fact, Kettering is a recipient of the Arbor Day Foundation's prestigious Tree City USA designation and has been for the past 38 years. This means our Parks Division goes a step beyond making sure trees are a part of our parks—it means we have made a commitment to a national foundation to keep trees an ongoing part of our landscape and planning.

As a community, we care about the health of our local businesses. The Community Development Division and Economic Development implemented the Microenterprise Loan Program. This program was developed to assist women, veterans, persons with disabilities and minority business enterprises. Microenterprises can apply for a forgivable, one-year, no-interest loan that can be used for business equipment, inventory, necessary fixed assets, marketing and business promotion, or other necessary business improvements.

As a community, we care about our safety. The Kettering Fire Department received the American Heart Association's Mission: LifelineEMS Gold Plus Award for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks.

As a community, we care about our security. The Police Department has been accredited since 1987 and continues to receive Meritorious Achievement and the Award of Excellence when re-accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

Finally, the reason we are a community is the care and respect we have for one another. Thank you all for your extraordinary acts of kindness, courage and selflessness in helping others.

As a community, we have so much for which to be proud. Thank you all for being a part of it.

Take care.

Peggy Lehner, Mayor of Kettering

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



### **Yard Debris Center**

Saturdays only until spring hours begin March 6  
Mon. – Fri. 3 – 8 p.m. & Sat. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### **Daylight Savings Time Begins**

Sunday, March 12



### **Compost/Mulch Available**

Monday, April 10

### **Spring Leaf Collection**

Will begin Monday, April 17

Please have leaves raked to the curb.



### **Income Tax Deadline**

Tuesday, April 18

This information is being provided pursuant to the requirements of Kettering City Charter, Section 3-5(C). Mayor and Council 2022 total compensation (salary and related benefits: PERS, Medicare and Workers' Compensation).

Mayor	\$ 20,908.71
Council Members – District	\$ 9,292.76 (Each)
Council Members – At Large	\$ 13,939.14 and \$ 13,831.14



## 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**

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#### **Lisa Duvall, District 1**

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#### **Bob Scott, District 2**

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#### **Tony Klepacz, District 3**

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#### **Bruce E. Duke, District 4**

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

#### **Matt Greeson, City Manager**

Matt.Greeson@ketteringoh.org ..... 937. 296.2412

#### **Steven Bergstresser, Assistant City Manager**

Steven.Bergstresser@ketteringoh.org ... 937. 296.2412

#### **Council Office**

KetteringMayorCouncil@ketteringoh.org .. 937. 296.2416

www.ketteringoh.org

@Kettering\_OH

City of Kettering, Ohio – Government

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





# The KetterGreen Project

As a community, we care about protecting our environment. During 2022, the City of Kettering introduced the revitalized KetterGreen Project. The City of Kettering is committed to improving the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of our community. The KetterGreen Project team is comprised of environmentally-conscious employees, residents and

subject matter experts committed to building a sustainable city by conceptualizing, creating and implementing organizational and green initiatives community wide. The KetterGreen Project participated in events to protect our waterways and the natural habitats that exist in and around our community including prescription drug drop-off events, hazardous household waste disposal, Styrofoam recycling and the always popular Shred Day! In addition to these events, KetterGreen has successfully implemented a better recycling program within City-owned facilities and Kettering parks. Stay tuned to City publications and social media for upcoming events.



From left to right: Tom Robillard, Brad Walwer, Ryan Homs, Kerri Miles, Dawn Kirchner, Leah Cultice, & John Brannick

## Proper Disposal of Yard Debris

Yard debris, including leaves and other organic plant materials like shrubbery trimmings and grass clippings, is a significant source of stormwater pollution and should be disposed of properly. Please consider the following options when disposing of your yard debris.

<b>Rumpke Regular Trash Collection</b>	Yard debris is collected by Rumpke along with your regular household trash. Simply place your yard debris in your trash cart for collection on your regular service day. Yard debris must fit inside your cart and does not need to be bagged. Rumpke will not collect separate bags or bundles of yard debris left next to your carts unless it is in Rumpke overage bags. Extra carts are also available from Rumpke. For further information about Rumpke's program, please call 1-800-828-8171.	
<b>Montgomery County Yard Debris Drop-Off Station</b> 1001 Encrete Lane, Moraine, Ohio <b>Hours of Operation:</b> Monday – Friday, 6 a.m. – 7 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.	<b>Accepted Materials:</b> Grass clippings, brush/branches, leaves and other organic materials. Logs must be no larger than 24 inches in diameter. Christmas trees are accepted throughout the year.	<b>Unacceptable Materials:</b> Trash, food waste, sod, stumps, mulch, wood chips, plastic bags and loose soil or dirt.
	<b>Accepted Materials:</b> Brush, limbs and trimmings should be cut to a maximum of 6' length and 4" diameter.	<b>Unacceptable Materials:</b> Grass clippings, thatch, sod, dirt, rocks, concrete, building and construction materials.



# Mayor Lehner Welcomes City Manager Matt Greeson to Kettering

It's hard to believe we are already a month into the new year! I hope 2023 brings you and your loved ones joy and fulfillment. As you may know, we begin 2023 with a new Kettering City Manager, Matt Greeson.

Mr. Greeson emerged as the top candidate resulting from an extensive recruitment process. He served the City of Worthington, Ohio, since 2007. He brings to Kettering over 26 years of local government experience with a strong record of forming partnerships, fostering fiscal stability and economic success, leading talented teams, and improving organizations and community quality of life.

During the recruitment process, City Council's goal was to ensure that Kettering's seventh city manager brings outstanding, proven leadership skills to the position to continue the level of service at which residents and businesses are accustomed. The needs and aspirations of our community are paramount, and our goal was to find the right candidate committed to continuing Kettering's strong tradition of collaboration, engagement and partnership. Conducting a national search allowed us to speak with a diverse group of candidates to ensure we chose the best fit for our community.

Mr. Greeson succeeds six incredible leaders who have furthered the health and vitality of our city, and City Council is confident in his ability to enhance Kettering's vision and strategic framework through sustainability, connection and resiliency. Previous Kettering city managers include Ervin Welch 1954-1975; John Laney 1976-1979; Phil Hawkey 1980-1981; Robert Walker 1982-1990; Steven Husemann 1990-2006; and Mark Schwieterman 2006-2022.

Mr. Greeson is excited to attend music events at Frazee Pavilion, watch games at Trent Arena, and enjoy the phenomenal parks, recreation

and cultural arts facilities with his family. Professionally, he sees that Kettering represents an ideal opportunity for collaboration and commitment to community building.

Prior to his service in Worthington, Ohio, Mr. Greeson served Volusia County, Florida, for 12 years where he rose to the position of Deputy County Manager. Mr. Greeson holds a Master in Public Administration from the University of Central Florida and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Stetson University.

I hope this brief introduction of Matt leaves you assured that our great city remains in good hands. Stay warm and take care.



## Meetings with Matt

One of the first things Kettering's City Manager wants to accomplish is to meet as many residents and business owners as possible to hear about the things that resonate home. Please stay tuned to the City's Facebook page, Twitter feed, publications and website for upcoming opportunities to meet Matt.



## A Note from the City Manager

This spring, all registered voter households in the city of Kettering will receive a postcard in the mail that lists salary and benefit information for a small number of City of Kettering employees.

An amendment to the City Charter requires that in odd numbered years, the City must create a document that provides salary and

benefit information for the top, middle and lower 15 full time city employees by earnings; and, mail it to all registered voter households in Kettering. A group of Kettering residents secured enough petition signatures to place this amendment on the ballot, and Kettering voters approved it in November 2016.

Charter Section 10-12 states that the mailer "shall contain no other information or statements other than specifically provided for herein". In other words, the Charter amendment prohibits the City from providing any context to the figures on the postcard.

The figures used for the mandatory postcard represent total compensation, including employee salary, as well as benefits. Some employees rise to the

top of the earnings list as a result of overtime or retirement benefits, which are included in total compensation calculations.

It is important to me that the Kettering community knows that a complete and searchable database of salary information for ALL city employees—not just the handful on the postcard, as well as a searchable database of all city expenditures, is posted on the City's website at [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org).

Many thanks to Kettering residents, businesses, school systems and employees for their dedication, compassion and love for this city. Together, we continue to persevere and support one another to remain a thriving community we are proud to call home. Be safe and thank you for taking the time to read this edition of Contact with Kettering.

Please contact me at 937-296-2412 or via email at [KetteringCityManager@Ketteringoh.org](mailto:KetteringCityManager@Ketteringoh.org) if you have any questions or comments.

Matt Greeson, City Manager



# Your 2022 City of Kettering Income Tax Return is Due on April 18, 2023

The Tax Division recently mailed the 2022 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](http://www.ketteringoh.org), or you may utilize one of the alternative filing methods described below. To avoid late filing fees, your 2022 return must be received in our office or postmarked by April 18, 2023.

## 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](http://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 phones, laptops or other electronic devices.

## Required Documents

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

**Email:** [ketteringtax@ketteringoh.org](mailto: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 6.
- ☐ 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 Community Development Program Coordinator Amy Hayslip at [amy.hayslip@ketteringoh.org](mailto:amy.hayslip@ketteringoh.org) or at 937-296-3308.

## Kettering Amenities Help With Outdoor Cleanup!

The Kettering Yard Debris Center is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Beginning March 6, the facility will open Monday through Friday, 3-8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mulch and compost will be available April 10 depending on the composting process.

Spring leaf pickup will begin Monday, April 17, and crews will complete a single pass through the city. Residents should have their leaves at the curb prior to that date to ensure pickup. Leaves accumulated after spring pickup should be properly disposed with household trash, at the Yard Debris Center or taken to the Montgomery County Solid Waste site.





# AQI: Air Quality Improvements Grant

Funding is available for homeowners in need of upgrading outdated HVAC systems.

## What:

Replace HVAC systems and include option for UV furnace lights.

## How:

How: Forgivable loan up to \$9,000. The loan will be forgiven at 100% after 5 years.

No Payments!



## Who:

Eligible participants are low to moderate income homeowners.

Household Size	Maximum Household Income
1	\$47,150
2	\$53,850
3	\$60,600
4	\$67,300
5	\$72,700
6	\$78,100
7	\$83,500
8	\$88,850

## Why:

This program will respond to living conditions that are associated with more severe coronavirus disease or poorer post-COVID health outcomes by providing forgivable loans for rehabilitating homeowner housing to comport with public advice and standard building codes.



For more information, contact Community Development Program Coordinator Amy Hayslip at [amy.hayslip@ketteringoh.org](mailto:amy.hayslip@ketteringoh.org) or at 937-296-3308.

## Permits Serve Important Purposes

The City's building code carries out the laws that ensure structures in our community are safe and sanitary. In order to do this, City professionals will review building plans and construction projects. Below are a few examples demonstrating how these important disciplines come together to add an extra layer of health and safety to your dream project.



**Architecture:** Reviews structural items to prevent things like deck collapse, improper insulation causing higher energy costs and poor accessibility.

**Electrical:** Ensures there is adequate power for the needs of the structure, protective devices installed and properly installed wiring.



**Engineering:** Ensures that sites have adequate drainage for rainwater without negatively impacting neighboring properties.

**Fire Prevention:** Ensures that "exit" lights work properly, fire alarms are functioning and extinguishers are charged and ready in case of an emergency.

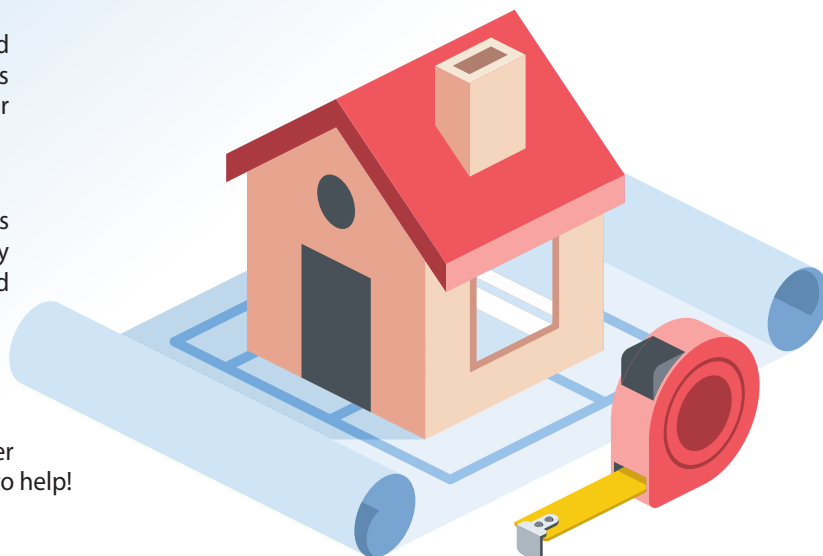


**Plumbing:** Checks to make sure drains are installed correctly to prevent odors and flooding, as well as ensuring drain pipes are large enough to avoid water backups in basements.



**Mechanical:** Ensures heating and cooling systems provide adequate service to a space and are properly ventilated to release fumes. Gas lines are often checked for possible leaks, as well.

We are excited for your projects to succeed and happy to be part of the process. Please contact Chief Building Official Patrick Hillier at 937-296-3317 to discuss your project at any phase. We are here to help!







# Kettering Police Department and Communications (Dispatch) Center Community Survey for 2022

The Kettering Police Department and Communication (Dispatch) Center is conducting a Citizen Satisfaction Survey. If you are a resident of Kettering, you are invited to participate. The survey addresses agency performance, perceived competency of employees, attitudes and behaviors, community concerns for safety and recommendations for improvement. Once compiled, the survey results will be available at the City of Kettering/Police Department website.

We appreciate your feedback which helps us provide top quality law enforcement and emergency communications for the community.

Complete the survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPTMC7X](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPTMC7X). Visit the City's website at [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org) or scan the QR code to take you right to it. The survey will be available for completion until March 3.



SCAN ME

## Promotions

In front of City Council, family, friends and coworkers, four KPD officers were promoted in rank. Andrew DiSalvo and Ryan Vandegrift were both promoted to lieutenant while Michael Martin and Brian Robinson were promoted to sergeant. Congratulations to all and best of luck in your new roles.



From left to right: Sgt. Michael Martin, Sgt. Brian Robinson, Chief Protsman, Lt. Andrew DiSalvo and Lt. Ryan Vandegrift.

## Mail Theft Continues



Jurisdictions all over the country continue to see an increase in check thefts from post office drop boxes, and Kettering is experiencing the same activity. In 2022, KPD responded to 54 incidents where a check was stolen from a USPS drop box, forged and used to purchase items or deposited for cash. If you use USPS to deliver your filled out checks, there are a few things you can do to protect yourself from becoming a victim. KPD suggests that instead of using the stand-alone drop boxes usually located in the parking lot of most USPS location, walk your check inside the post office and drop your mail with an employee. Once a check is in the mail, consider tracking the transaction through your bank to ensure that the check was deposited for the appropriate amount and by the intended person/company. If a check never reaches the intended party, is deposited for the wrong amount or by the wrong person, please contact KPD at 937-296-2555 to report the incident.

## Meritorious Service Award

On August 2, 2022, crews were sent to Wilmington Pike and Imperial Avenue on a suspicious persons call. Officer Kim arrived first and located the subject. As he approached, he observed the subject stabbing himself in the neck with a knife and falling to the ground with life-threatening injuries. Officer Kim advised backup units of the extent of the situation and began applying pressure on the wound even as the subject resisted help. Officer McCoy arrived and utilized the medical bag in his cruiser

and inserted a nasal pharyngeal airway while Officer Wager and Officer Browne assisted with care until medics arrived. The subject was transported to the hospital where he made a full recovery. The quick response by Officer Kim to immediately begin first aid after making the scene safe, even with resistance from the subject, and Officer McCoy's utilization of the medical equipment on which he was recently trained with the assistance from Officers Wager and Browne likely saved the subject's life.



From left to right: Officer McCoy, Officer Browne, Chief Protsman, Officer Wager and Officer Kim.



# 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 any 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 professional to clear any fallen or unstable trees or large limbs.

# Tornado Sirens

The City of Kettering owns and operates 9 disaster warning sirens located throughout the city limits. These sirens emit two types of warnings, constant and Hi-Lo tones. The constant or non-oscillating tone is used for disaster (i.e. tornado warning) and the Hi-Lo tone for civil defense issues. An operational test of these sirens is conducted at 12:00 p.m. on the first Monday of each month. Here are a few common questions we receive concerning these sirens.

## Will you activate them again for the "All Clear"?

No. Upon hearing the sirens, residents should tune into local emergency broadcasts for further information.



During an emergency of long duration (i.e. long storm), they may be activated more than once.

## When I am indoors, the sirens do not seem loud enough, can you turn them up?

No. The siren warning system is designed to notify people outdoors of impending danger in order to seek shelter.

## The siren near my house is very loud, can you turn it down?

No. Each siren covers a specific area; if you live close to one it will be louder to you than someone further away. If we turn them down, citizens that live farther away may not hear.

# In Memoriam

Members of the Kettering Fire Department announced with deepest regret and sorrow the line-of-duty death of Firefighter/Paramedic Tracy Leach.

Tracy passed away on December 24, 2022, after succumbing to occupational cancer. Tracy served the Kettering Fire Department with distinction with more than 21 years of service.



# Spring Cleaning/Decluttering

More than 1,600 times per year, Kettering Fire Department responds to an incident where someone has fallen. These falls can result in serious injury and even death. Many of these falls can be prevented by taking basic steps to de-clutter passage ways in the home. These passage ways could also serve as a means of egress in the event of a fire and quicker entry for fire department members in the event of an emergency. Excessive clutter also becomes additional fuel when a fire starts in a home. Below are a few basic steps you can take to eliminate potentially hazardous conditions in your home.



- Keep hallway floors and stairs free of storage and clutter. It is recommended to maintain at least 36"-wide pathways through your home. This will allow an ambulance gurney to pass easily through the home in case of a medical emergency.

- Keep areas around doors or windows free of furniture or other items. Any of these openings could serve as emergency exits. Don't store anything behind a door that prevents it from opening fully.

- Keep bathroom and kitchen floors clear of clutter and loose rugs to prevent trips and falls.

- Do not store items that could burn next to heating equipment like a furnace, water heater, oven, or space heater.



# Internship Assistance for Kettering Export Businesses

The City of Kettering is looking to help match-up businesses that need exporting assistance with highly motivated college students who have taken export-focused coursework. If your business is interested in exporting your products, contact the City's Economic Development office for possible recommendation to the Ohio Export Internship Program. If your business is selected for this program, the Ohio Department of Development will place an intern at your company and provide 50 percent reimbursement for the intern's wages. This program is open to small to medium-sized businesses.

The program is a partnership between the Department of Development and various state-affiliated universities in Ohio. Internships will run from May to August 2023.

The internships have a track record of helping businesses achieve export success. According to the Department of Development, in the 12 years of the program,

411 student-company matches were created, resulting in 136 internship extensions, 69 new job positions, and 400 new international markets, distributors, or customers. The City would like to see Kettering businesses be a part of this successful initiative.

For more information on how to apply, please contact the City's Economic Development office at 937-296-2412 or [econdev@ketteringoh.org](mailto:econdev@ketteringoh.org).



## Miami Valley Research Park Welcomes New Office Workers in 2023

The City of Kettering will see an influx of office workers at Miami Valley Research Park in 2023, thanks to a new project recently announced by Industrial Commercial Properties, which owns the 1900 Founders building. As was announced in late 2022, some civilian and active-duty employees from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base will soon be moving to the 1900 Founders building while on-Base remodeling of their current offices takes place.

The City of Kettering has been a partner in helping bring jobs to this site, offering an economic development grant for the construction of a parking lot at east end of the 1900 Founders building to accommodate the workers. JobsOhio previously offered a grant to assist with the remodeling of the building.

According to Kettering City Manager Matt Greeson, bringing more workers to Miami Valley Research Park provides two benefits to the city. Additional workers will bring more income tax revenue, but also new energy to the park. "We're excited to see this opportunity unfold and hope to see more tenants at Miami Valley Research Park in the future," Matt Greeson said.

## Energy Aggregation Update

Kettering is among nearly 18 communities throughout the region taking measures aimed at providing residents better gas and electric rates through the power of collective negotiations.

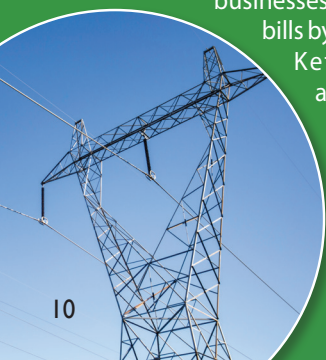
As of June 1 2022, AES Ohio's price became 10.91 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), up from its "standard offer" price of 4.805 cents. A kilowatt-hour is how much energy you need to run a 1,000-watt appliance for an hour. A 100-watt bulb takes 10 hours to use a kilowatt-hour of energy. A 2,000-watt appliance takes 30 minutes.

Under aggregation, communities negotiate with suppliers on behalf of eligible households, nonprofits and small businesses to save money on bills by grouping together.

Kettering residents and small business owners will have the opportunity to opt out of the program.

Once legislation requirements are met and a quote and market rate is approved, Kettering residents and business owners will begin to receive information about the program. It is expected that those who participate will receive their first bill as part of the aggregation program in August 2023. It is important to note that the rates for electricity in an aggregation program are not guaranteed; but, the freedom to opt out of the program will be available.

As the City of Kettering continues to work with surrounding communities, we encourage residents to research electric suppliers to find the one most suitable for their needs. The Apples-to-Apples resource from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio can help compare prices between providers. Please visit [energychoice.ohio.gov](http://energychoice.ohio.gov) to get started. We will report updates in our publications and on social media to keep you informed.





# Seven Local Entrepreneurs Complete Kettering's Technical Business Series

The City of Kettering congratulates seven business owners who completed a four-week Technical Business Series in November 2022. Overall in 2022, the City provided \$101,553 in CDBG assistance to 10 historically disadvantaged microenterprise businesses during the spring and fall funding rounds. These entrepreneurs represent a variety of industries including childcare, restaurant/food preparation and personal services.

By participating in this four-week series, these business owners were able to submit early applications for the Microenterprise Forgivable Loan program.

According to Angela Rahman, Community Development Manager for the City of Kettering, this program often represents the first interaction these small businesses have with government agencies or funding resources. "This program allows qualified business owners to experience applying for funding right here in Kettering, and we provide the level of service to make it a positive, meaningful experience," she said.

Initial feedback from funding recipients demonstrates that this is the case. One participant stated, "I can't thank Kettering enough." City staff received a letter and hand-drawn picture from the son of another participant expressing his gratitude for the funding that helped with upgrades for his mother's Kettering studio. "Positive feedback, hand-drawn pictures and witnessing how invested these business owners are reconfirms the value of this program," Rahman said.

Another objective of the program is to help entrepreneurs grow their businesses and support job creation.

Those who completed the entire series also received a paid, one-year membership to the Kettering-Moraine-Oakwood Chamber of Commerce. Membership in the Chamber will provide these business owners with year-round mentoring opportunities and cost-saving programs for their businesses.

The City plans to present a similar program in the future. If your business is interested in participating and you would like to be added to the distribution list for future updates including dates and location, send your contact information to [econdev@ketteringoh.org](mailto:econdev@ketteringoh.org).



*Belinda Matthews-Stenson from the Minority Business Partnership speaks to 7 local entrepreneurs on funding sources.*

## Kettering Welcomes Three New Businesses

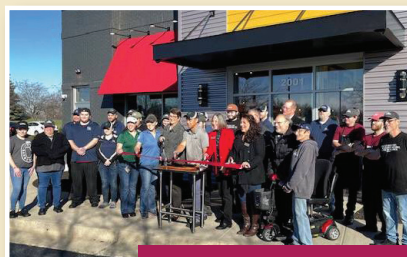
Mayor Lehner, City Council, City staff participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of Kettering's newest car wash at 1335 E. Dorothy Lane! Flying Ace Express offers a fast, high quality, fun and eco friendly car wash. Their high tech Envirosoft equipment gently and effectively cleans cars to a showroom finish. Thank you to Kettering-Moraine-Oakwood Chamber of Commerce for coordinating this celebration!

Mayor Lehner, City Council and City staff joined in celebrating the grand opening of City Barbeque at 2001 E. Dorothy Lane. Customers can eat in, carry out or drive through to enjoy a full array of smoked meats, including ribs, pulled pork, beef brisket, chicken breast, pulled chicken, turkey breast and sausage. The restaurant also offers a range of side items and desserts. The business won first place in the "Best BBQ" category in last year's Best of Dayton contest! Welcome to Kettering!

Join us in welcoming Divine Essence Emporium to Kettering! Mayor Peggy Lehner, Council Members, KMO Chamber of Commerce and City staff helped kick off their grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Located at Town & Country Shopping Center, 342 E. Stroop Road, Divine Essence is a boutique with a unique curation of candles, essential oils, aromatherapy items and fantastic gift possibilities for the upcoming holidays. Congratulations, Divine Essence!



**Flying Ace Express Car Wash**



**City Barbeque**



**Divine Essence**



# Volunteers are an Important Piece of Our Community!

We celebrated another successful year of service to our community thanks to our dedicated volunteers! On November 17, 2022, volunteers gathered for a traditional roast turkey lunch, and Mayor Lehner awarded certificates and gifts to volunteers based on the number of hours contributed since they began volunteering for the City's program. From July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, 351 volunteers contributed 11,700 hours to the City of Kettering saving \$314,379! A variety of door prizes were generously provided by a variety of Kettering businesses.

All volunteers were invited to donate items to We Care Arts, whose mission is to empower healing through art and community. Not only did they bring items, they filled an SUV!

We look forward to offering more volunteer opportunities in 2023, and thank our volunteers for their continued dedication and commitment to the City of Kettering!

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 1980's 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*

Bettina Buscemi, *Business Development Manager, Day Air Credit Union*

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

Jey Ellis, *Associate Partner, Coldwell Banker*

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

Joan Fisher-Hatton, *Kettering Medical Center*

Sabrina Larson, *Retired, Defense Finance and Accounting Service*

Chris Wright, *Serve Director, Christ Church United Methodist*



## Volunteer Opportunities

The spring and summer months bring many opportunities to volunteer! These include greeting guests at Frazee Pavilion, assisting with summer camps at Rosewood Arts Center, the Kettering Recreation Center and Habitat Environmental Center. If you like to spend time outside and want to be involved in new conservation initiatives, you can get involved with Park and Waterway cleanup events. 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 and many other opportunities!



# A Very Merry Polen Farm Christmas

Christmas 2021 brought unseasonably warm and rainy weather, and 2022 was the exact opposite! Unseasonably cold weather paired with rain and snow made travel difficult, but couldn't stop this Kettering Tradition! The spirit of the season paired with the generosity of volunteers ensured guests could enjoy a warm meal, holiday music, a variety of sweets, coloring activities, scavenger hunt and free book store for children, and photos with Santa! Our sincere thanks to the more than 35 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  
Skyline Chili  
Mary Ann Dodaro  
Donald E. Patterson



## Make A Difference Day: Another Year of 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. Last year on October 22, 120 volunteers created 1,024 holiday greeting cards for our troops serving overseas, 90 holiday placemats, installed a rain garden at Van Buren Park, and assisted homeowners with yard work in the Van Buren Neighborhood. A total

of 198 hours were contributed from various organizations throughout our community.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and community partners, we were able to improve our environment, help our neighbors, and reach across the globe to our active duty men and women to bring holiday greetings from Kettering, Ohio!



## 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 6. Nomination forms are available at [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org). Contact the Volunteer Office at 296-2433 for more details.



# Come See the Fresh Look in Our PRCA Facilities and Parks

Last year was a busy year for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts! We're excited to have made significant progress on several major park and facility upgrades over the past year with much more on the horizon this coming spring.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Doug Lathrem family, the Charles I. Lathrem Senior Center has enjoyed some big improvements. The CIL is sporting comfy new furniture, upgraded technology, new restrooms, a swanky billiards room and many more interior updates. Further improvements are coming in 2023, including two new vans for our Senior Transportation Program and more changes to the building's interior.

The Rosewood Arts Center renovation made some major progress last year and remains in full swing. One of the most significant updates to Rosewood in 2022 was the opening of the new main entrance and parking lot. In addition, a new lobby, gallery, administrative suite, youth arts studio, dance studio and restrooms are now open. Renovations now underway include Rosewood's new ceramics, metals and glass studios, darkroom and community meeting room, scheduled to open in April and

summer 2023. The renovation of the painting and drawing studios, theater, printmaking studios and artist spaces are scheduled for completion by fall 2023, with a celebration planned soon after!

The renovation of the J.F. Kennedy Park pickleball courts is also nearing completion. The project includes expanding the current six-court area to 12 courts. A shelter and new pathways to the courts from the park will be added as well. The courts are expected to be finished and ready for play this spring!

The renovations for the playground at Indian Riffle Park are also moving along. Based on the results of a community survey, we selected equipment for ages 2 through 5 and a variety of inclusive equipment for all ages.

Additional planned improvements for 2023 include parking lot and playground resurfacing at J.F. Kennedy Park and several paint updates throughout all of our parks. Updates are also planned for the outdoor area adjacent to the CIL, including an open lawn, gardens and

an open air shelter. We look forward to adding a variety of recreation options for the community with this renovation. Parks also plans to landscape the exterior lawn beds and front entrance of Rosewood, which will complete Phase 2 of the Rosewood renovation.

For information and updates about specific projects, please visit [www.playkettering.org](http://www.playkettering.org)





# Join Our Summer 2023 Team!

Now is the time to start thinking about your summer job! Join our team to work with talented people who are dedicated to the community and want to be part of something bigger.

Our Parks staff enjoys working outside in a beautiful setting, getting their hands dirty and seeing the impact of their work in our 21 parks. Each team member assists with care of landscapes, athletic fields, turf and park facilities and helps keep Kettering beautiful!

The Aquatics Team is responsible for oversight and operations at the Kettering Recreation Complex indoor pool and Adventure Reef Water Park. We offer seasonal and year-round positions, including Lifeguards, Swim Instructors, Water Park Attendants and Concession Attendants. Not currently certified as a lifeguard? No problem! We provide

American Red Cross lifeguard training and certification throughout the year for those who need it.

Our Frazee Pavilion team members do whatever it takes to provide guests with exceptional experiences during Frazee concerts and events. Love helping people and providing great customer service? Be a part of the magic at Kettering's Home to "Summer's Best Music".

The Summer Camps Team plans a fun season of adventure with new experiences in environmental education, art, theater, sports and more. Our qualified and caring staff keep coming back to camp year after year because they feel like they're making a difference in kids' lives.

Visit [www.playkettering.org/jobs](http://www.playkettering.org/jobs) to learn more and apply.



## REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMPS!

**March 6**

Registration begins for Kettering Residents

**March 13**

Registration begins for Non-Residents

Visit [playkettering.org/camps](http://playkettering.org/camps)



## 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](http://www.playkettering.org)

### TreeFEST

**Saturday, April 15**

Habitat Environmental Center



Rosewood Gallery Exhibitions

### Muscle Memory Collective Earth Transformed 2023

**March 16 – April 15**

Rosewood Gallery

**Carolyn Harper (Narberth, PA)  
Sarah Nguyen (Columbia, MO)**

**April 24 – May 27**

Rosewood Gallery



### Kettering Community Garage Sale

**Saturday, April 29**

Lathrem Senior Center



### Important Dates

**March 6**

Spring Program Registration  
Begins for Kettering Residents

**March 13**

Spring Program Registration  
Begins for Non-Residents



## JOIN OUR TEAM!



## We Have Jobs for Ages 15 and Over!

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](http://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

Street Division Hotline ..... 937-296-3255

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

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

*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  
Abby Beneke, 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.