



PUBLISHED FOR THE VOLUNTEERS OF KETTERING — SPRING 2023

Letter from the Mayor



Dear Volunteers:

National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to show appreciation to the people and causes that inspire us to serve. The City of Kettering will be joining communities across the country in observance of this special week, April 16 – 22.

National Volunteer Week was first observed in 1974 and is now recognized each year by a proclamation from the President of the United States, as well as a proclamation by many governors

and local officials. I will do the same at the April 11th City Council meeting, as well as present the Mayor's Award for Volunteer Service to a deserving youth and an adult volunteer.

Volunteerism empowers individuals to find their purpose, to take their passion and turn it into meaningful change. The positive impact made by our volunteers is inspiring. From installing new gardens, to mentoring eager summer campers and assisting guests at the Frazee, volunteers are one of the major reasons Kettering is a wonderful place to call home!

Please mark your calendar for the first Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on April 19, and the annual community block party at Frazee Pavilion on May 31. Please plan to attend these events to celebrate how much we appreciate you and your contributions to making this a special community!

Thank you for your service!

Peggy Lehner, Kettering Mayor



National Volunteer Week

The City of Kettering will be joining communities across the country in observing National Volunteer Week. This week is focused on recognizing those who have made volunteerism a part of their lives and to encourage others to become involved. This year marks the 49th anniversary of National Volunteer Week and the 44th anniversary of the City of Kettering's Volunteer Program.

City Council Meeting April 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Lehner will issue a proclamation for National Volunteer Week, honoring our dedicated community volunteers who selflessly give their time to help their friends and neighbors throughout the City of Kettering. She will also honor a youth volunteer and an adult volunteer with the Mayor's Award for Volunteer Service.

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast April 19, 7:30 to 11 a.m.

Let us thank you for all you do as a volunteer, and stop by for a bite to eat before work, or any time before 11 a.m. A continental breakfast will be waiting for you to enjoy in the Virginia Room, located in the north building at the Government Center. Not sure where to go? Stop by the Volunteer Office and we'll get you there!

Thank you for all you do for the City of Kettering!



Kettering is home to Volunteer Spirit



NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE

If you reside in Kettering, you will soon be receiving information about the City's Neighborhood Pride Program. This year marks the 35th anniversary of our program and serves as a wonderful example of the way in which volunteers make a positive impact in our neighborhoods.

The Neighborhood Pride Award recognizes residents who have made significant improvements to the appearance of their homes or who have maintained their home impeccably year after year. Last summer almost 400 properties were nominated for this award. Winners of this prestigious award are recognized publicly at a City Council meeting and an attractive sign is placed in the property owner's front yard.

The nomination process is simple. Watch your mail for the summer edition of *Contact with Kettering* for additional information and a nomination card. You can complete and return the card by mail, nominate online by visiting www.ketteringoh.org, or contact the Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433. Nominations will be accepted beginning May 1.

This program is made possible by our outstanding committee of volunteers! Thanks for all you do to make Kettering a community so many are proud to call home!



 **KETTERING**
— *is home* —
to **Neighborhood Pride**



We are excited to announce the Cities of Service (COS) neighborhood for 2023! We will move slightly south this year to cover the South Van Buren Park neighborhood encompassing the area bordered by Forrer Blvd., Smithville Rd., the Tenneco property, and the Montgomery County Education Learning Center. This will be the ninth neighborhood in the COS initiative. The residents in the area will soon be receiving invitations to a neighborhood block party in June.

This initiative is a true example of what can be accomplished when volunteers, businesses, and City staff come together in the spirit of civic engagement. Our COS team welcomes the opportunity to work with service clubs, students, faith-based groups and any organizations looking for ways to give back to our community. In addition, several area businesses contribute to this effort by providing volunteers, gift certificates, refreshments and monetary donations. If you, your organization, or your business is interested in partnering with us in this effort, please contact the Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Summer will be here before we know it! Our Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department offers a variety of exciting and engaging camps every summer. If you are an adult or are a student age 16 or older, and enjoy working with children, you may be the perfect camp volunteer to assist our staff. Volunteering with summer camps can help you gain job experience, fulfill service hours, or simply enjoy helping while having fun!

If you enjoy meeting people and working outdoors, why not consider joining our dedicated team of volunteers at Frazee Pavilion this summer? Volunteers are asked to work 6-8 shows and must be able to stand 2-3 hours. Volunteers help welcome and direct guests, and help with bag check. There will be a mandatory orientation in May, date to be announced.



If you're looking for volunteer opportunities focused on conservation, you may want to consider participating in some of our new projects including monitoring and repairing bird boxes; helping to design, care for, and interpret the Sensory Garden at Pondview Park; participate in a park or neighborhood clean-up; welcome and direct guests at our compost site on Stroop Rd.; or help at TreeFest. Many of these opportunities are designed to accommodate work, school, and other conflicts.



Do you have some extra free time in the evening or on weekends as the days get longer? We can use your help with our special events and activities sponsored by our Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Dept. These are great opportunities to assist with activities suited for children and families, and you'll find the time flies! Check out the list of events at: ketteringoh.org/volunteer-special-events

Please contact the Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433 if you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities and would like more information.

Kettering Leadership Academy

The Kettering Leadership Academy (KLA) is currently accepting applications for the 2023 - 2024 class. KLA is designed for people looking to take on leadership roles within our community, such as serving on a board or commission at the City of Kettering, or serving at one of our area non-profit organizations. Applicants are required to live or work in Kettering.

The Academy begins in September with a mandatory overnight retreat at Camp Joy. Sessions are held once a month throughout the year until graduation in May. Topics include Kettering history, local government, community organizations, education, healthcare, business, service clubs, and volunteering. The fee for the Academy is \$700. Many businesses sponsor employees to attend this very worthwhile program. Please contact the Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433 for further information.





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CITY OF KETTERING

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Mark your calendar!

COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY May 31 from 6 – 8 p.m.

Please join us at Frazee Pavilion for this free event open to the entire community. Bring your friends and family to enjoy hot dogs and chips, displays from various city departments, and entertainment. Mention you're a volunteer, and we'll have a special treat for you to show our thanks – no card required!

