

CONTACT WITH

Kettering

Community Magazine Spring 2024



CITY OF KETTERING *is home*

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Mayor's Welcome

Dear Neighbors:

Even though the weather is likely freezing at the time this message reaches you and you are ready for warmer days, I hope that all of the spring things the City of Kettering brings to you on the following pages puts you in the springtime spirit!

We welcomed two new City Council members on January 1, 2024, and they have been busy acclimating to their new roles of service.

Shane Sullivan (District 3) took over the reins for former Councilman Tony Klepacz. Shane is a third generation Kettering resident and values the sense of community, the traditions and the friendships he has developed with people and families across the city. He and his wife, Jessie, are raising their family in Kettering just as Shane's parents and grandparents did. Shane has taught math at Kettering City Schools for nine years and is also an adjunct at The Modern College of Design. Shane's commitment to Kettering is exhibited through his various volunteer roles. He previously sat on the Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts advisory board, he was a member of the Kettering Tree Committee and he currently serves on the Fairmont Athletic Hall of Fame Committee. Shane participated in Spark Kettering which helped develop a strategic plan for the City. Shane is also a 2014 graduate of the Kettering Leadership Academy. Shane wants to ensure Kettering remains a great place to live with friendly neighborhoods, fun community events, beautiful public parks and exceptional schools. His focuses while on City Council will be on safety, economic development and the parks.



Bryan Suddith (District 4) will assume the responsibilities once held by former Councilman Bruce Duke. Bryan is a 23-year resident of Kettering. He and his wife, Melissa, have been married for 27 years and raised both of their sons in Kettering. Bryan served on the Charter Review Commission and as a member of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Board. Bryan plans to use his role as City Councilman to be a voice for residents and to be an ambassador for the amazing staff of professionals who work to keep Kettering a great place to live, work and play.



These gentleman joined current members Vice Mayor Jacque Fisher (At Large), Lisa Duvall (District 1), Bob Scott (District 2) and Jyl Hall (At Large).

In addition to the Mayor, there are two at-large City Council members who represent all of Kettering. There are four district City Council members who represent geographic areas of Kettering.

City Council district representatives can be found at www.ketteringoh.org/city-council-districts/ or by calling the Clerk of Council at 937-296-2416 Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Meetings are held every second and fourth Tuesday of each month. We would love to see all of you there!

If you see me around town or at events, please stop and say hello. Meeting all of you is truly the best part of my role as mayor. After all, those interactions typically lead to accomplishments.

Until then.

Peggy Lehner, Mayor of Kettering



Jacqueline Fisher
Vice Mayor, At Large
2018 – Present



Jyl Hall
At Large
2022 – Present



Lisa Duvall
District 1
2022 – Present



Bob Scott
District 2
2022 – Present

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Yard Debris Center

Saturdays only until spring hours
begin March 4
M-F 3 – 8 p.m. & Sat. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Daylight Savings Time Begins

Sunday, March 10



Compost/Mulch Available

Monday, April 8



Spring Leaf Collection

Will begin Monday, April 15
Please have leaves raked to the curb.



Income Tax Deadline

Monday, April 15

This information is being provided pursuant to the requirements of Kettering City Charter, Section 3-5(C). Mayor and Council 2023 total compensation (salary and related benefits: PERS, Medicare and Workers' Compensation).

Mayor	\$ 20,794.59
Council Members – District	\$ 9,242.04 (Each)
Council Members – At Large	\$ 13,863.06 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

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

Shane Sullivan, District 3

Shane.Sullivan@ketteringoh.org 937. 903.3215

Bryan Suddith, District 4

Bryan.Suddith@ketteringoh.org 937. 830.0516

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

Your 2023 City of Kettering Income Tax Return is Due on April 15, 2024

The Tax Division recently mailed the 2023 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 2023 return must be received in our office or postmarked by April 15, 2024.

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 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. 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.

Accessibility Modification Grants Available Now!

The City of Kettering offers Accessibility Modification Grants of up to \$10,000 for homeowners who are income eligible and have a need to modify their home due to a disability. There are a wide variety of modifications and changes that can be made to your home dependent on your individual needs. The City of Kettering has lowered light switches and changed out door knobs to levers, moved washers and dryers to more accessible locations, replaced bathtubs with roll in showers, added grab bars and more. The modifications you need can be recommended by a physician, a 3rd party agency or be developed in conjunction with our in house rehab specialist when discussing your needs. Below you can find the Income Limits Based on Household Size:



Household of 1	Household of 2	Household of 3	Household of 4
\$49,850	\$57,000	\$64,100	\$71,200

Please call Community Development Program Coordinator, Amy Hayslip to request an application at 937-296-3308 or you can send an email to amy.hayslip@ketteringoh.org to request your application packet or for more information.

Signs That Seniors May Need Extra Support in Their Homes

How to tell if someone needs extra support in the home

- The individual can no longer prepare meals safely using a stove.
- The individual is not bathing regularly and wears clothing that does not align with weather conditions.
- The individual's home is cluttered and unkempt.
- The individual does not have appropriate medications and does not follow dosage instructions.
- The individual is experiencing significant weight fluctuations.
- The individual's hygiene is lacking.
- The individual is often confused.
- The individual falls often.
- The individual experiences loneliness and social isolation.
- The individual has trouble walking or maintaining mobility.
- The individual is unable to think clearly and make decisions.



Please contact Senior Services Coordinator Natalie Storms for more information or resource information at 937-296-3356 or via email at natalie.storms@ketteringoh.org.

Kettering's Emergency Alert Program

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 Safety Village

Kettering Safety Village, sponsored by the Dor-Wood Optimist Club, is a five-day transportation and life-safety program for children who are entering kindergarten in August 2024. The City of Kettering's Engineering Department's Safety Section, in collaboration with Kettering City Schools, is proud to operate this program designed to teach our youngest citizens how to be safe.

Safety Village instructors are joined by Kettering Police and Fire personnel to provide age appropriate classroom instruction on a variety of safety topics. Children get to practice and reinforce what they have learned at our indoor Safety Village, with child-size replicas of streets, intersections and buildings.

Through classroom instruction and exciting hands-on experience, young children will begin to develop safe habits for a lifetime.



Classes will take place June 3 – 7 and June 10 – 14. This year, we will be offering classes 8 – 10 a.m., 10:30 – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Fee: \$20

Location: Orchard Park Elementary School



Kettering Amenities Help With Outdoor Cleanup!

The Kettering Yard Debris Center, 1840 Woodman Center Drive, is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Beginning March 4, the facility will open Monday through Friday, 3 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

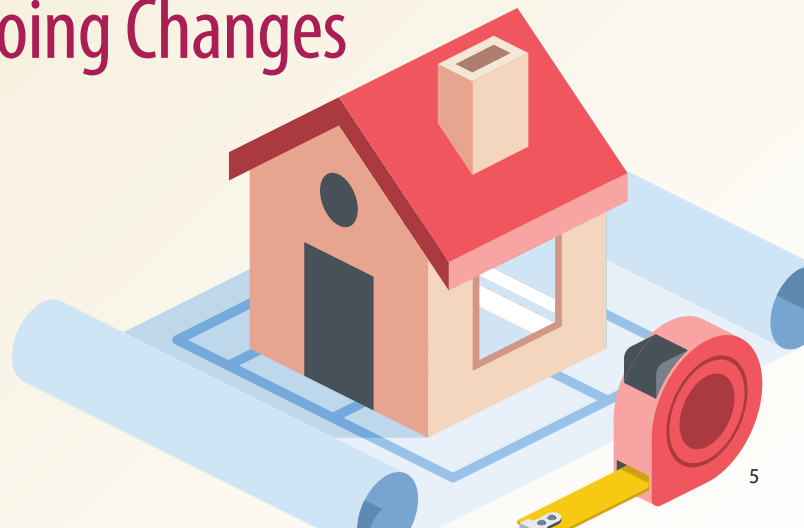
Mulch and compost will be available April 8, depending on the composting process. Stop by 2801 E. Stroop Road at Indian Riffle Park (located behind Tannenberg Kennels).

Spring leaf pickup will begin Monday, April 15, 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.



Ohio Building Codes Undergoing Changes

There will be updated Ohio building codes effective March 1, 2024. Any projects under construction or applications in review prior to this date will not be impacted. Any projects submitted after March 1, 2024, will need to follow the new codes. If you are planning a new project, keep this in mind. There are significant changes to the commercial building code and minor changes to the residential code. There are also significant changes to the electrical code that will apply to both types of projects. Your design professional or contractors should be aware of these changes. If you have additional questions, contact the City Architect Patrick Hillier at 937-296-3317.



Greater Dayton RTA Launched New Route

On December 31, the Greater Dayton RTA launched Route 28, a new route that runs through the heart of Kettering connecting riders to shopping, restaurants and health care! It runs from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., with a frequency of approximately 40 minutes at any given stop. The vehicles primarily utilized on this route will be 30-foot buses, compared to the more commonly seen 40-foot buses. There are 23 seats on board the vehicle, and each has deployable ramps for accessibility, as well as bike racks. Route 28 will serve existing RTA bus stops along the route, and new bus stops will be added on Dorothy Lane between Woodman Drive and Southern Boulevard. Route 28 will intersect with RTA routes 6, 12, 16, 17 and 19.

Route 28 will loop through parts of Kettering along Dorothy Lane to East Stroop Road, to Southern Boulevard and then back to Dorothy Lane. It will replace the southern portion of the discontinued Route 11. Route 28 will not travel downtown to Wright Stop Plaza. However, it will intersect with five other existing routes, which do travel downtown. Those include Routes 6, 12, 16, 17 and 19.

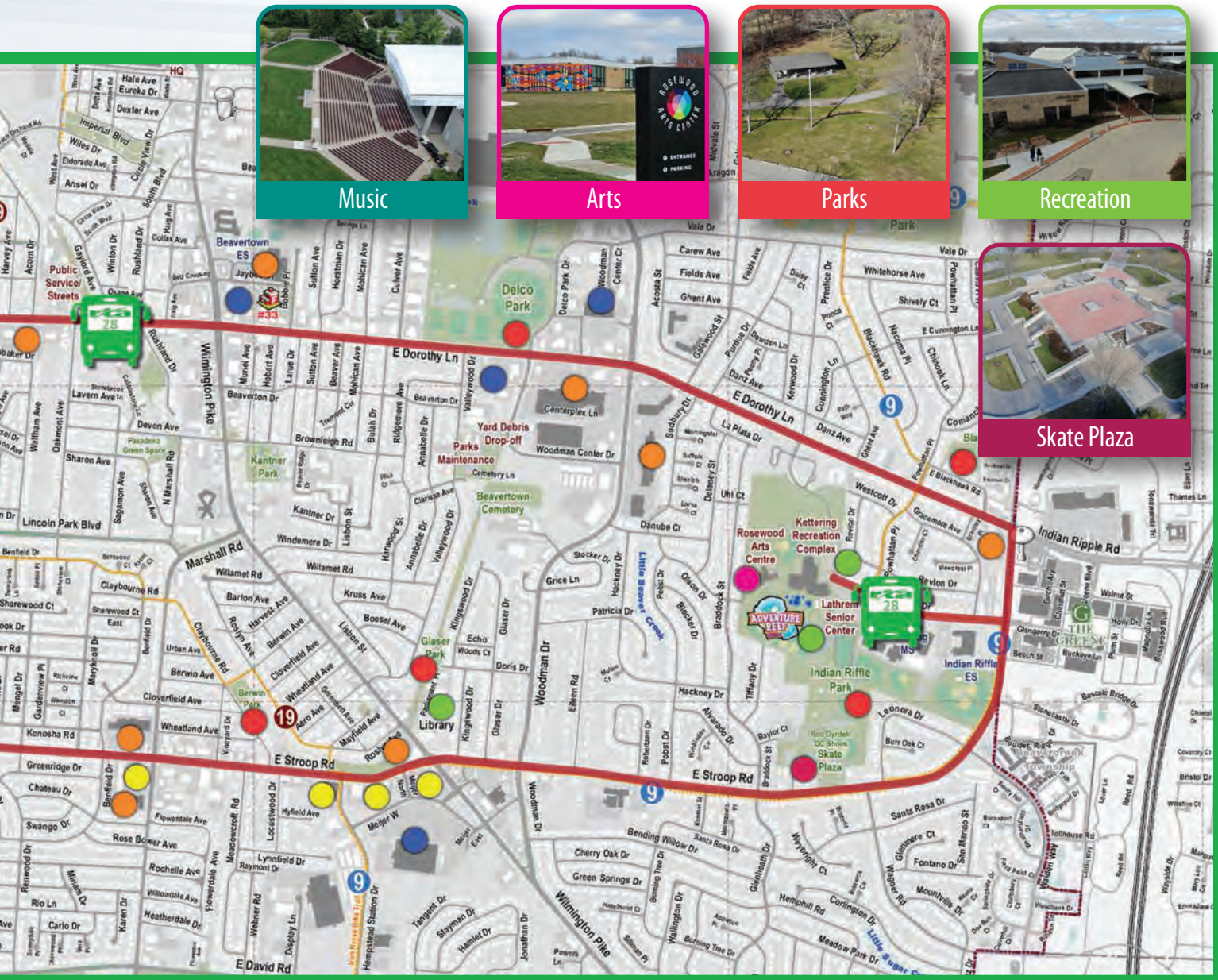
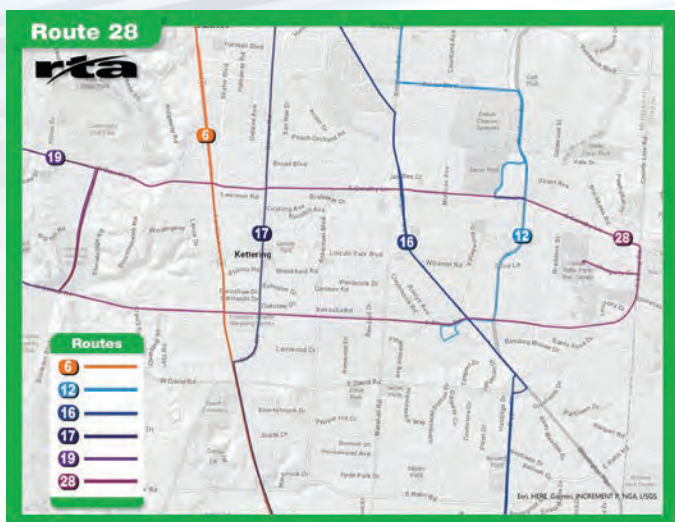
As part of RTA's larger system redesign plan, Route 11 will be discontinued upon implementation of Route 28. The expanded Route

12 and Route 28 will cover most sections of the discontinued Route 11. The Route 12 expansion will serve Woodman Drive to Meijer off Stroop Road. The discontinued section of Route 12 on Woodman Center Drive will be served by the nearby Route 12 and 28.

RTA worked with the City of Kettering to ensure this new route serves current and future economic development sites. Several important locations served by Route 28 will include Kettering Health Main Campus, Kroger and Kettering Towne Center on Dorothy Lane, Kettering Recreation Complex, Meijer at East Stroop Road and Wilmington Pike, Kroger Fresh Fare on East Stroop Road, Town and Country Shopping Center at Far Hills Avenue and East Stroop Road, along with stops within walking distance to the Greene Town Center. This loop also includes stops at Stroop-Mar Shopping Plaza and Fairmont Plaza at Stroop Road and Marshall Road.

The RTA believes Route 28 will ultimately create better connections and more direct access to jobs, health care and educational opportunities, providing an increase in transportation equity.







KPD Welcomed Four New Officers

The Kettering Police Department kicked off the new year adding four new officers to their team. Chief Protsman administered Oaths of Office January 8, 2024.

Wesley R. Clark joined the Kettering Police Department after three years of service as a deputy at the Preble County Sheriff's Office. He holds an Associate of Applied Science degree in Criminal Justice from Eastern Gateway Community College.

Alexis M. Ireton holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of



From left to right: Alexis Ireton, Joshua Manuszak, Chief Protsman, Brent Douglas and Wesley Clark.

Cincinnati. She is a Sergeant in the Ohio Army National Guard. Alexis is currently attending the Sinclair Police Academy.

K. Brent Douglas was raised in Yosemite, Kentucky and graduated from Casey County High School. He has served in the Marine Corps and the Kentucky Army National Guard since 2013. Brent is attending the Sinclair Police Academy.

Joshua A. Manuszak graduated from Carroll High School in 2008, and joined the United States Navy where he served as a Special Amphibious Reconnaissance Corpsman. During this time, he served and deployed with Marine Reconnaissance and Marine Raider Battalions as a SOCOM medic. Josh was honorably discharged in 2019 and began working as a civil service program manager at Wright-Patterson AFB. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Business Administration degree from Liberty University. Josh is currently enrolled in the Sinclair Police Academy.

Kettering Business Emergency Contacts



The Kettering Police Department is requesting contact information for Kettering businesses in the event of an emergency. Some examples of emergencies might include a broken sprinkler causing

flooding after hours or intruders seen inside the business.

For time-sensitive incidents like these, up-to-date contact information for a key holder will enhance the safety of your business. Please provide information at www.ketteringoh.org/business-emergency-contacts/ to help us contact you after hours in an emergency situation.

We appreciate your help in keeping your business safe. For further information, please call 937-296-3299 or 937-296-3296.

Coffee WITH A Cop

Join the team from the Kettering Police Department Community Relations Office on the third Wednesday of each month at the Charles I. Lathrem Senior Center from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. These sessions aim to help residents aged 55 and older to learn about current citywide crime trends and how to avoid falling victim to them.

Meet KPD specialty teams and hear about behind the scenes ways crime is prevented or investigated. This participant-driven program will include plenty of time for questions, and a senior center membership is not required to attend. K9 Bolt and his handler, Ptl. Harper recently made a guest appearance, and they were a big hit.



Citizen Police Academy Begins March 6!

The 69th session of Kettering's Citizen Police Academy will take place Wednesdays from March 6 through April 24, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

The Citizen Police Academy is an awareness program designed to increase the information flow both to and from the police department and the public.

The program is designed to allow the public to view all facets of police work. During this time, the participants get first-hand knowledge on how the department functions. There are classes on patrol

functions, drug awareness, K-9, traffic enforcement, criminal investigations, evidence collection, firearms safety and several others. Each participant is encouraged to interact with the different instructors and ask questions about police work that sometimes never get answered. This forum provides a means to increase public awareness and support for the police department throughout the community.

Anyone interested in participating can apply at www.ketteringoh.org/citizen-police-academy



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.

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.

Tornado Sirens

The City of Kettering owns and operates nine 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 Noon 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.



Kettering's New Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Presents an Opportunity for Homeowners in the Aragon & Oak Park Neighborhoods

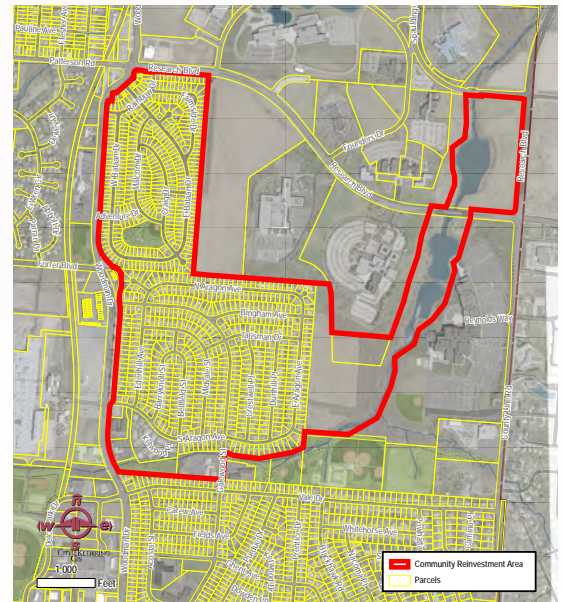
Spring is typically seen as a time of renewal. For many homeowners, that sentiment also extends to home improvements projects and refurbishing their most important investment: their home. Now, thanks to a new program enacted by City Council, homeowners in the Aragon and Oak Park neighborhoods can benefit from a tax abatement if the improvements they undertake are valued at \$20,000 or more.

Last year, Kettering City Council passed a resolution creating a Community Reinvestment Area (CRA). CRAs are designated neighborhoods where property owners can receive tax incentives for investing in real property improvements. CRA programs are designed to spur reinvestment of existing housing stock and encourage new residential development to revitalize neighborhoods. Eligible property owners who renovate existing properties or construct new buildings can receive a direct incentive tax exemption on real property. In Kettering, the incentive is only available to owner-occupied homes.

Under Kettering's program, single family residential units and duplexes located within the CRA shall be eligible for the real property tax exemptions of 10 years and 75% exemption for remodeling or demolition and new construction if:

- The single-family residence or one unit of a duplex is occupied by the owner, and
- The remodeling or the demolition with new construction costs are \$20,000 or more.

If you live in and own your home and it is located in the Aragon or Oak Park neighborhoods (see map to right) and are considering making any improvements such as building a new porch or adding a garage or other structure, you should consider applying for the CRA to save on future property taxes. An application is available on a web page that the City has created to provide additional information about this program, which you can find at www.ketteringoh.org/community-reinvestment-area-cra-aragon-oak-park-neighborhood.



Aragon and Oak Park Neighborhoods

What qualifies for the abatement?

Not all home improvements will qualify for abatement. Improvements must increase the residential property's assessed value by at least \$20,000. This value is determined by a reassessment of the property by the Montgomery County Auditor once the project is completed.

Improvements that MAY qualify for Tax Abatement

- Building a new porch
- Adding a garage
- Remodeling an attic into living space
- Installing a sun room
- New additions to the structure
- New construction
- Structural improvements
- Complete rehabs



Improvements that likely will NOT qualify for a tax abatement

- Interior or exterior paint
- Landscaping or outdoor lighting
- General repair of steps, railing, siding or gutters
- New roof or windows
- Remodeling kitchen or bathrooms
- Install, repair or replace a driveway or sidewalk
- Interior work (electrical, plumbing, mechanical, flooring)

Two Six Technologies Receives EDGE Grant for New Office Space in Miami Valley Research Park

The City of Kettering is proud to welcome Two Six Technologies to the Miami Valley Research Park. The company was a recent recipient of EDGE funding from Montgomery County, which announced the awards in late 2023. The grant will help the company develop Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) space at the company's new offices.

Under this project, Two Six Laboratories is expected to bring 80 new jobs to Kettering to support the company's growth. The project

investment is estimated at \$3 million, with Montgomery County contributing \$225,000 in EDGE funding. The company has also received a job creation tax credit from the Ohio Tax Credit Authority.

Two Six Technologies is a technology company that provides products and expertise to national security customers across the Department of Defense. The company is headquartered in Arlington, VA, and has more than 750 employees across 36 states. We welcome them to Kettering!

Civil Engineering Firm to Open New Office in Miami Valley Research Park



A civil engineering, geotechnical, environmental and survey firm will soon be moving to Kettering and occupying newly renovated office space located at the Miami Valley Research Park.

Koontz Bryant Johnson Williams (KBJW), one of the fastest-growing civil engineering firms in the United States recently announced that

they will be moving to the Sixth River Office Park in the office building located at 3171 Research Boulevard. KBJW has five locations throughout Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky.

The Sixth River office buildings are owned and managed by ICP, a Cleveland-based commercial developer. ICP has modernized the office building located in Sixth River, bringing many new tenants to Kettering. Additional development has occurred throughout Miami Valley Research Park with companies such as Life Connections of Ohio, Resonetics and Solvita expanding their operations here.

The City is proud to see new tenants locate in our community. If your business is considering a new location or needs additional space, there are many opportunities available – both vacant land and commercial buildings that can be customized to fit any need. Contact our Economic Development office at econdev@ketteringoh.org for information on why Kettering is home for business development.

Welcome to Kettering!

The Blue Berry Café is coming to Kettering at 2928 S Dixie Drive (formerly the site of the Golden Nugget Pancake House). The City is excited to see a new restaurant breathe new life into this well-known property. We look forward to celebrating their opening soon.



The Blue Berry Café

Mayor Lehner, City Council Members and City Staff welcomed Five Grains Noodle House with a celebratory ribbon-cutting ceremony. The restaurant is located at 1465 E. Dorothy Lane (formerly Chop Suey). Five Grains features five different grains (rice, corn, peas, wheat and sorghum) that are made into noodles. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., for dine-in and takeout.



Five Grains Noodle House

Volunteering Weaves Us Together

We celebrated another successful year of service to our community thanks to our dedicated volunteers! On November 16 at noon, 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, 2022 – June 30, 2023, 269 volunteers contributed 9,000 hours to the City of Kettering saving \$247,917! A variety of door prizes were generously provided by a variety of Kettering businesses.

All volunteers were invited to donate cold weather items like gloves, hats and scarves to be distributed to those in need throughout our community. Keeping with the theme of our lunch, a number of hand woven items were brought in for a personal touch. Not only are our volunteers generous, they are talented!

We look forward to offering more volunteer opportunities in 2024, 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.

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 11. Nomination forms are available at www.ketteringoh.org. Contact the Volunteer Office at 296-2433 for more details.

Make A Difference Day: Another Year of Success!

National Make A Difference Day has successfully encouraged the involvement of individuals and groups to be 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 on October 28, 88 volunteers created 850 holiday greeting cards for our troops serving overseas, several dozen holiday placemats, installed 55 new native shrubs and flowers in the rain garden at Van Buren

Park, and assisted homeowners with yard work in the South Van Buren Neighborhood. A total of 113 hours were contributed by individuals and a variety of 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!



New Christmas Traditions Celebrated at the Charles I. Lathrem Center

After more than 40 years celebrating Christmas at Polen Farm, the annual Christmas Celebration moved to the Lathrem Center. This venue offered a variety of upgrades for our guests including: curbside drop off, increased parking, more restrooms, single level accommodations and a full catering kitchen to prepare dinner among other benefits! Our guests had nothing but rave reviews about the change, and many also enjoyed the extra space for dancing!

Thanks to the generous help of our volunteers, guests enjoyed a hot meal, holiday music, a variety of sweets, coloring activities, games, scavenger hunt, free book store for children and photos with Santa! Our sincere thanks to the 47 volunteers who gave their time to cook, set-up, entertain, 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

Mary Ann Dodaro

Donald E. Patterson

The Team at Frazee Pavilion



Kettering Recognized For Sustainability Efforts

Dayton Regional Green, led and organized by Montgomery County, awarded the City of Kettering a 2023 Sustainability Award for the establishment of a Sustainability Committee on Tuesday, December 19, 2023. Awards were given to local organizations and municipalities making positive strides towards sustainability.

As part of the City's efforts to seek ways to be sustainable, you are encouraged to participate in the regional *Bring Your Green Challenge*. Your participation provides free access to online web-based reporting tools to track energy, waste and water usage, and calculate the environmental impact of your sustainability efforts. To make the experience more fun, you can join teams and participate in a variety of challenges that encourage sustainable lifestyle choices through education, gamification and engagement. You can learn more and sign up at bringyourgreen.com.



From left to right: Montgomery County Commissioner, Carolyn Rice; Kettering Mayor, Peggy Lehner; Dawn Kirchner, staff liaison to Sustainability Committee; Montgomery County Commissioner, Judy Dodge; Dayton Regional Green Director, Lamees Mubaslat.

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*

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*

Dick Honeywell, *Retired Program Manager, USAF*

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 those who enjoy serving as receptionists and facilitating the organization of documents through scanning and filing. 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!

Kettering PRCA Volunteer Coach Wins State Honor

Dan Bogan understands that becoming a great coach starts with caring about kids. Since 2016, he has volunteered with over 17 youth sports teams in the Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts sports programs, stepping up wherever needed - from soccer to basketball to volleyball. Dan's steadfast support of players at all skill levels has earned him the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association's 2023 Youth Sports Coach of the Year Award.

Dan's coaching career began when his daughter started recreational soccer. With his own father's mantra that any good teacher can be a great coach echoing in his mind, Dan eagerly took on the role despite initial doubts about his skills. But he quickly learned that knowledge matters far less than being present for each child.

Dan excels at meeting players where they are and building up their abilities. He recalls one shy soccer player who never challenged others for the ball.

"I told her that all she needs to do to be better than others is work harder than others, which she took to heart. Her parents told me that she started to practice every day after school and even wrote my quote on her school folders," he said.

"By the end of the season she was one of the best defenders I have ever had, it made me very proud to have guided her on that path and I hope she is continuing today."

His patience and care yield results on and off the field. Dan's greatest coaching memory is watching his own daughter score 9 goals in a game after tentative beginnings. And years later, youth still proudly call him Coach.

"I feel like in my years coaching these children in Kettering I have made an impact on many children's lives, to this day I have parents and kids from years ago calling me "coach" and it always brings me pride," he said.

Dan advises adults worried about lacking knowledge: "Take the leap - teams need willing volunteers. Everyone will appreciate you giving your time to try."

Kettering PRCA relies heavily upon volunteer coaches to help provide our youth sports participants with a quality recreational experience. Help in any capacity is welcomed, whether that be head coach, assistant coach, or just a helper.

We provide resources to aid our coaches with practices and games.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433.



Summer Jobs that Make an Impact in Kettering

Seeking a rewarding seasonal gig this summer break? Apply now for positions with the Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. We have openings that are perfect for high school and college students looking to gain experience while doing meaningful work!

Our talented Summer Camps Team leads young minds through discovery in arts, sports, environment and more. Share your passion for working with children through acting, crafts, games and adventures that create lifelong memories.

If you love the outdoors, our Parks staff keeps landscapes thriving at recreation facilities and parks throughout Kettering. Help spring into action across Kettering's beautiful parks and gardens for hands-on work.

At Frazee Pavilion, provide stellar customer experiences to concert fans in the heart of the entertainment scene. It takes a village to pull off our famed "Summer's Best Music!"

Make waves on our Aquatics crew overseeing daily operations and swimming safety. We offer lifeguard certification for newbies to dive right in to the fun. All levels welcome!

Spend summer break with us for season-long positions or flexible part-time gigs. Competitive pay, training opportunities and resume building await!

Jump start your career journey through meaningful public service this summer with Kettering PRCA. Apply at www.playkettering.org/jobs today!



APPLY TODAY



SCAN ME

Choose your Summer Adventure!

Follow your passion and share it with others by becoming a member of our Summer Camps Team! Plan summer adventures in sports, art, theater, environmental education and more for eager young campers.

Go to playkettering.org/jobs to learn more.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMPS!

March 4

Registration begins for Kettering Residents

March 11

Registration begins for Non-Residents

Visit playkettering.org/camps



Play Dates

Join your Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts for fun this season!

These events are family friendly and free.

Details are at www.playkettering.org

TreeFest

Saturday, April 20
9 a.m. – Noon

Habitat Environmental Center



Tree Love

Saturday, April 20
1 – 5 p.m.

Eudora Brewery



Kettering Community Garage Sale

Saturday, April 27
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Lathrem Senior Center



Art on the Playground

Saturday, May 4
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Habitat Environmental Center



Kettering Health Art Gallery
at Rosewood Arts Center

March 11 – April 13

Reni Gower (Mechanicsville, VA)

Geo Matrix: A Perfect Proof

Eli Kessler (Kent, OH)


Structural Deviation



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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.

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

