



VOLUNTEERS & VETERANS HONORED!

First, we would like to say, *“Thank You”* to all of our volunteers and veterans for the time you give and have given to our community and our country. It was with gratitude and pleasure that Mayor Patterson, Council, City Staff, Mary Lou and I honored you on November 11, 2011 at our 32nd annual volunteer luncheon. It was a great luncheon and if you were unable to make it we hope you will join us next year. Certificates and/or gifts were awarded to 220 volunteers. We currently have three volunteers who have over 10,000 cumulative volunteer hours—Jean Collins, John McClelland and Larry Schlea. WOW, you are awesome!

This is a good time to remind all of our volunteers to make sure your volunteer hours are being recorded. Every year when it is time for our luncheon, we receive questions from some of our volunteers concerning the hours they have accumulated. It is your responsibility to ensure the volunteer office receives your hours. You can enter your hours in the volunteer books located at CIL or the volunteer office. Or you can call us



32nd Annual Volunteer Luncheon

Upcoming Events

**April 15 – 21
National Volunteer Week**

**May 23
Community Block Party
at Frazee Pavilion**

**Watch for details
about these events
in our next newsletter.**

Until then, stay warm!

at 296-2433 or e-mail Mary Lou at marylou.randolph@ketteringoh.org. We recommend you turn in your hours once a month. Many of our staff members turn in the hours for their volunteers every month and that is fine. Please make sure someone is recording your hours. We do not want to miss anyone when it comes time for recognition.

And on that note...it doesn't matter if you give 4 hours a year or 1,000 hours, you are crucial to the City's operation. As the City faces many challenges with budget cuts, you are important to ensuring our City remains strong and viable. Thank you for sharing your time and talent!

CHRISTMAS DAY OPEN HOUSE AT POLEN FARM

Once again "Christmas Day Open House" at Polen Farm was extremely successful. There was a record-breaking crowd who enjoyed a visit from Santa, singing, a train display, children's activities and appetizers. We wish to thank Bill and Marynel Bradley along with their committee for the months of planning and preparation necessary to ensure a festive event for all!



Marynel and Bill Bradley

KEEPING FIT

Now might be the time to get serious about fitness. Take advantage of KEEP (Kettering Employee Exercise Program). This program offers



Kettering Fitness & Wellness Center

City employees and volunteers the opportunity to improve their personal health through exercise at a reduced cost. Volunteers who have contributed 100 hours of service and are currently volunteering are eligible for a 20% discount on the following fitness options: annual fitness room pass; seasonal pool pass; seasonal skate pass; annual aerobics pass; annual/seasonal combination pass or drop-in gym pass.

If you are interested in KEEP, please call the volunteer office (296-2433) for a letter of eligibility to take to the Recreation Complex before buying your pass.

WINTER CHALLENGES

So far our weather has been cooperating and we have not had much snow or ice, BUT we are sure that will not last and we want you to be safe! Please use good judgment this winter during the snow, ice or extreme cold. It is the policy of the volunteer office for you to stay inside when the weather is nasty. We need your assistance all year long, so please do not risk your health this winter by coming to volunteer! We will get along without you for one day, and we want to make sure it is only one day!

INCOME TAX DEDUCTION

There are some deductions you are allowed for volunteer service if you itemize using Form 1040 on your 2011 Federal Income Tax Return. Unreimbursed expenses while volunteering, that are deductible, include automobile mileage to and from your volunteer job, bus fare, parking fees, long distance calls, postage, uniforms and supplies. These deductions apply to your volunteer work for other places as well as the City.

The Charles I. Lathrem Senior Center will be taking reservations for income tax assistance. This service is free and available to seniors 60 and older, or low income. Appointments are limited to one hour per client. Therefore, you must have all your forms, receipts and information ready and in order when you come in. Please call the tax hotline at 296-2469 to schedule your appointment.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

The Volunteer Program statistics are below; you can see firsthand the impressive figures. We are very proud of our accomplishments. The program has grown and expanded over the past 32 years to meet the needs of the City—and it is still growing! We have more volunteers, more services and more hours than ever—and it would not have been possible without you! After all, we are "The City of Volunteers." Thanks so much!

Hours contributed: 39,102

Value of Services: \$815,287

Years 1979–2011

\$16,596,925 saved!

Is it any wonder we are the envy of other communities? Thank you for making Kettering the best place to live, work, play and volunteer!

volunteer OPPORTUNITIES

- Volunteer receptionists are needed at the Kettering Connection located in Town & Country Shopping Center. The Kettering Connection is the place for seniors to learn about available resources. These volunteer opportunities are two hours a week and involve greeting visitors and answering the phones. What a great way to get out of the house and meet some new people!
- Volunteer gym attendants are needed at the Kettering Fitness & Wellness Center located at Trent Arena. These positions are 2 to 3 hours each week and involve greeting our patrons, issuing keys and towels and scanning passes. When you've completed your shift, why not spend a few minutes working out yourself—it's a benefit for volunteers in this position!
- Rosewood Arts Centre is in need of a volunteer to answer phones and greet the public. Shifts are available Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 5 to 7.
- Substitute mail couriers are needed to deliver mail to our City of Kettering government buildings. We will provide the car. Volunteers need a valid driver's license and the ability to do some lifting. Couriers work one day a week from 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Substitute couriers would be on-call.
- Looking for something to do this summer? Why not consider volunteering at Frazee Pavilion? Shifts are 2 to 3 hours. Volunteers are asked to work 6 to 8 shows, depending on the number of shows and the number of volunteers. Volunteers must be able to stand 2 to 3 hours and must be able to endure all types of weather.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these volunteer opportunities, please call the Volunteer Office at 296-2433.

The following announcement is from the Ohio State University Extension office about how to become a Master Gardener Volunteer. The City of Kettering Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department was designated as a volunteer site last summer. We are very excited about this opportunity. The City is the only other site in Montgomery County besides Five Rivers Metro Parks:

- Do you love to garden? Would you like to learn new skills and meet others who share your horticultural interests?

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2012 Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program. Classes meet every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 6 through May 8, 2012. The location for the classes will alternate among the Cox Arboretum MetroPark, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, and the OSU Extension Office at Montgomery County Fair Grounds.

Training provides 50 hours of classroom instruction provided by OSU professors, county extension agents and other experts. Topics cover a broad range of subjects, including plant propagation, herbaceous and woody ornamentals, trees and lawns, soils and fertilizers, fruits and vegetables, herbs, pest management and more.

Participants must attend one of several volunteer orientation sessions scheduled for February 7 – 9, 2012. They also must pass a background check before entering the program and volunteer 50 hours of horticultural service to the community after completing the classroom instruction to become a certified Master Gardener Volunteer. The class fee is \$150.

For more information, please contact Clare Thorn, Program Assistant, Horticulture, at (937) 224-9654. Applications and other required forms are available online at www.montgomery.osu.edu. The deadline for application is January 30, 2012.



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VOLUNTEER KETTERING is published quarterly by the City of Kettering to keep our volunteers informed of issues, developments and opportunities pertaining to the Volunteer Program. Comments and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to the City of Kettering, ATTN: Volunteer Office, 3600 Shroyer Road, Kettering, OH 45429.