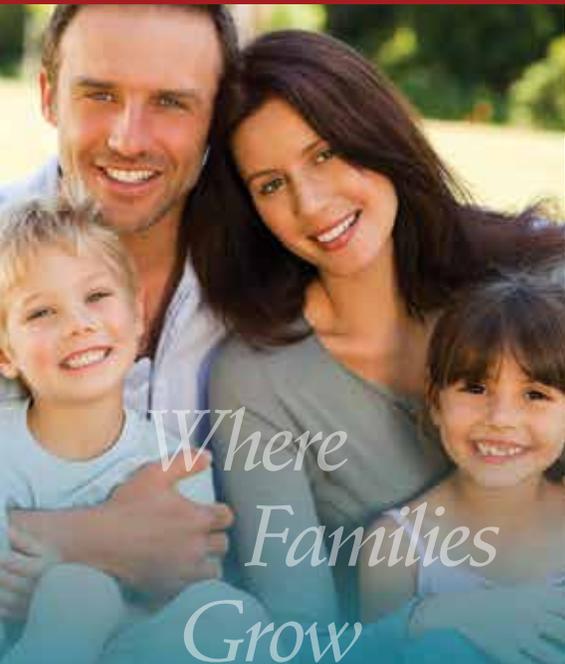


Village of Middlefield

Issue 11 | Summer 2015



*Where
Families
Grow*

Strong

Contents

- Perfect Timing for Middlefield's Big Ben **2**
- Cardinal Superintendent Letter **4**
- Smoked Southern Deli **5**
- Beekeeper Visits Cardinal Intermediate School Ecology Club **6**
- Middlefield's Got Talent, Too! **6**
- Middlefield's Got Talent, Too! Finalists **7-18**
- Make a Difference in Your Community by Becoming a Volunteer **19**
- Recreation Department **20**
- Cardinal Schools Recognize Vets **20**
- Cops 'n Kids **20**
- Amish Buggy Classic **20**



Save the date!

Middlefield Summer Fest

June 20



Parade, games, music, food and laughter will be on hand at the 4th annual Middlefield Summer Fest on Saturday, June 20th. The day will begin with parade floats lining up at 11:30 a.m. at Jordak Elementary School followed by the spectacular parade of more than 40 floats starting at 1 p.m. Pull up a folding chair and watch as the parade winds its way west across W. High Street and ends at Harrington Square, where guests can enjoy great food, music, games and the Middlefield's Got Talent, Too contest.

Don't miss the energy and excitement planned for all ages!

Middlefield, Ohio —
truly a village where
Families Grow
Strong!



Village of Middlefield

Where Families Grow Strong

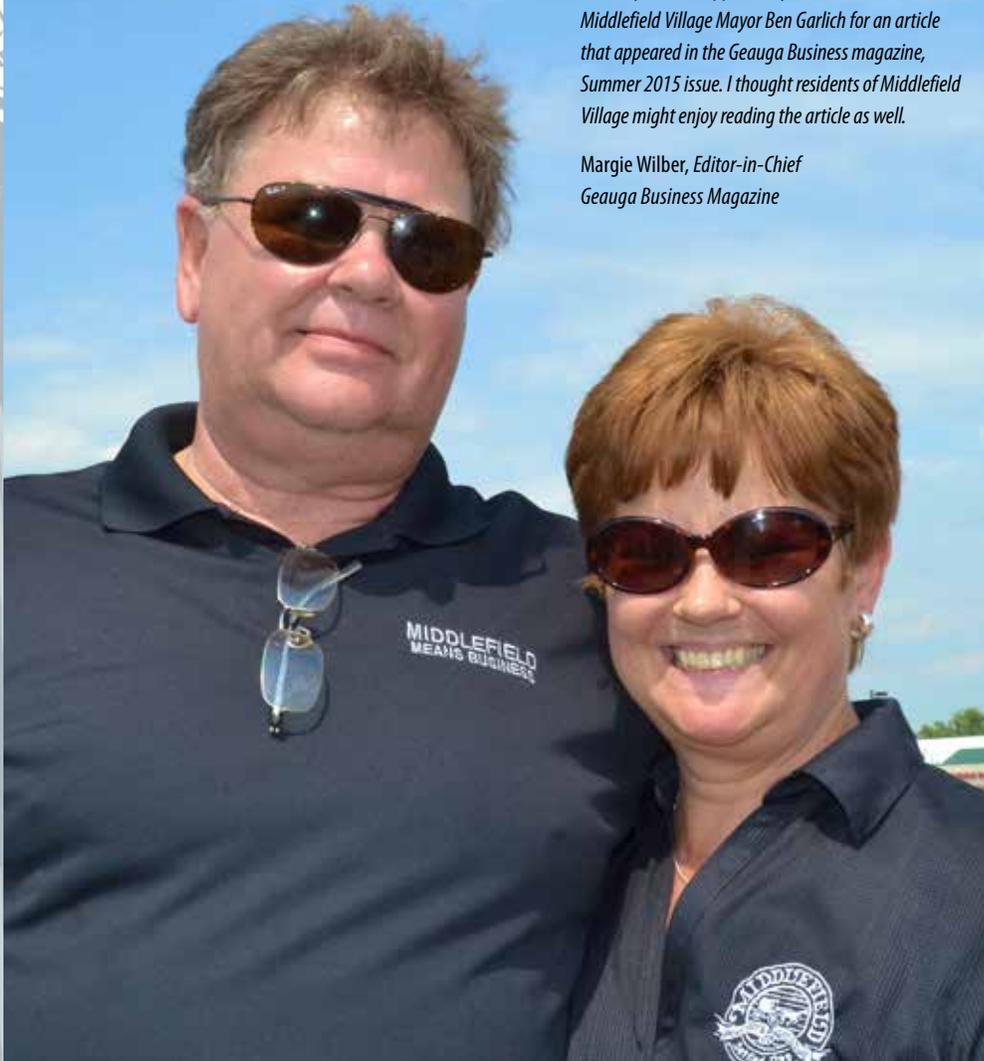


Perfect Timing for Middlefield's

Big Ben

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with Middlefield Village Mayor Ben Garlich for an article that appeared in the Geauga Business magazine, Summer 2015 issue. I thought residents of Middlefield Village might enjoy reading the article as well.

*Margie Wilber, Editor-in-Chief
Gauga Business Magazine*



Ben and Karen Garlich

With the economic downturn of the U.S. economy and many regional, state and national businesses and industries struggling to stay afloat over the past few years, Middlefield Village Mayor Ben Garlich took matters into his own hands to shore up the business community in his small, bucolic village. Ever the optimist, Garlich saw opportunity rather than adversity.

"We have a strong, reliable, non-union workforce; a wealth of natural resources; and a local government that works proactively and collaboratively with business and industry," insists Mayor Garlich. "In addition, Middlefield Village has extensive, shovel-ready commercial and industrial land. I don't know why any business or industry would look anywhere else to relocate or establish their plant."

He continues, "We are a hub for rubber mixing, chemical dispersion and blend manufacturing, polymer research, flooring and custom cabinet manufacturing and plastics. We are home to such manufacturing giants as Kraftmaid, Myers Industries' Dillen Products, Tarkett's Johnsonnite, Hexpol's Gold Key Processing, Chem Technologies and Flambeau.

"With the unemployment rate reaching nine percent nationally, it was an ideal time to attract more business and industry to our village," Garlich recalls.

The forceful mayor's first step was to form an Economic Development Committee (EDC) with the mandate to draft and adopt an economic development plan to guide Village growth. Committee members included Village Councilmen Bill Blue and Ron Wiech along with residents Dave Dietrich, David McDowell and Dick Schill. He directed this committee to also review all matters concerning the promotion of new commercial and industrial development as well as the preservation and enhancement of current commercial and industrial businesses within the Village. Within one month of its inception, the EDC submitted a draft to council that was immediately adopted.



“I don’t know why any business or industry would look anywhere else to relocate or establish their plant.”

Middlefield Village Mayor Ben Garlich

“It had been several years since the Village of Middlefield actively solicited business prospects for new commercial and industrial development,” acknowledges Garlich. “When I was elected mayor on January 1, 2012, I had one primary goal in mind — build the economic base in this community.”

Three years later, Garlich’s list of accomplishments speak for itself:

- Institutionalized economic development in Village government by creating and maintaining an active and energetic Economic Development Committee
- Guided Middlefield Village in creating economic incentives, in addition to existing federal, state and county incentives, to attract business and industry to the Village
- Developed a business attributes and advantages inventory to pinpoint opportunities
- Worked alongside First Energy, which invested \$20 million on an upgraded grid with direct feed line to Middlefield Village — satisfying the need for dependable energy at a cost considerably less than the national average
- Hired Write 2 the Point, a marketing/ public relations firm, to launch a two-sided website for residents and business/

industry that showcases reasons to start or relocate a business in Middlefield Village as well as reasons why this Village is a great place to live and raise a family

- Directed Write 2 the Point in launching an aggressive national campaign, Middlefield Means Business, to attract manufacturing and industry to Middlefield Village — including testimonial videos of local business and industry leaders, direct mail marketing, and informational packets available on request
- Worked aggressively in the annexation of land that enabled Chem Technologies to expand its plant on 15 acres southeast of Routes 528 and 87 — only the first of seven expansion phases planned for this company
- Hired Leslie Gambosi-McCory, MBA, as the Economic Development Director for the Village
- Organized quarterly forums between EDC and business leaders to discuss shared interests and overcome remaining obstacles that threaten economic growth
- Attracted new business and industry to Middlefield Village
- Removed barriers that enabled local manufacturers and industries to expand their operations
- Implemented a retention, enhancement and expansion program for existing businesses and business activity in the Village

“Today, Middlefield Village is stronger and better positioned to attract new business and industry to the area as well as retain and help existing business and industry grow and prosper,” states the no-nonsense mayor. “We can respond immediately to requests for information and act aggressively in attracting business and industry to our Village. A strong economic community means stronger schools and a higher quality of life for our residents.”

Garlich is no stranger to business. In addition to serving as Middlefield Village Mayor, he is site manager at Dillen Products in Middlefield.

Dan Weir, Middlefield Village Administrator, has worked with Garlich over the years. “The Village of Middlefield is at the forefront for economic development opportunities on a local and national level due to one fact — Mayor Garlich knows how to get things done. Ben provides valuable leadership with vision, and I enjoy working with him every day to further objectives that promote business opportunities and good community for the Village of Middlefield. Ben Garlich, in my mind, is a fine Mayor of strong integrity who honors every commitment and promotes our community at every opportunity because it all matters to him. Ben gives it his all and, in return, expects nothing back and that’s what a true public servant does for the community they serve.” 🌊



Ben Garlich cuts the ribbon celebrating the opening of ACE Hardware in Middlefield Village.



Village of Middlefield

Where Families Grow Strong

Put On Your Shades. The Future Is Bright!

Dr. Scott J. Hunt,
Superintendent



Another year has passed us by ... gone ... poof ... in a cloud of dust. When the school year ends, it's often thought of as a chance to take a break, relax, re-energize, and take a vacation. But here at Cardinal, we are already hard at work, making adjustments and improvements for the beginning of the 2015-16 school year.

We have been able to take advantage of Straight A Grant funds, granted this year, to carry out our improvements beginning this summer. Grant dollars are being applied this June and July on several big projects that will be in place prior to the schools reopening.

Our first endeavor is upgrading our web page to provide a user-friendly, functional web page for visitors to our site. I anticipate much positive feedback once we go live.

In addition, we are upgrading our technology infrastructure to support two major programs at Cardinal High School. The first is a One to Pay roll out of iPad Minis for our students. Basically, we will be offering students/families the opportunity to purchase an iPad for learning. High school teachers have already been issued their

iPads, as they will use them for designing and delivering engaging work for our students.

The second program will be the installation of a distance-learning classroom. The current high school library is currently undergoing a makeover and will serve as the hub for distance-learning programming that will utilize Cisco hardware and software. The room will be outfitted with four tracking cameras, two 70-inch and two 60-inch monitors, microphones, speakers, and a control center. This room will provide opportunities for student learning and teacher professional development.

The high school will also roll out a 4 x 4 semester block schedule to support some of the changes. The block schedule will provide students with eight course opportunities throughout the school year. The primary advantage of the new schedule is the additional time in a course (approximately 83 total minutes per block). Students will have four courses per semester, which reduces the current load in the traditional schedule of seven or eight classes that run all year at 42 minutes.

Cardinal Middle School will also benefit from Straight A grant dollars. The grant focus at the middle school is college and career exploration. A group of middle school teachers participated in training this year to deliver activities/opportunities for students to engage in college and career activities next year. The middle school will also benefit by receiving a class set of iPads to support their efforts. We are thankful to have been selected for the Straight A grant, as this money will provide opportunities for students that we could not fund as part of our general fund budget.

Unfortunately, there are no grant opportunities to support our permanent improvement needs. Currently, we have roofing issues districtwide, but primarily at Cardinal High School, that need attention now. The Cardinal Board of Education will be seeking a 2-mill permanent improvement levy this fall. This type of levy covers only permanent improvement costs, and we will use those dollars to fix roofs, pay for bus leases, and potentially continue to upgrade

technology. The cost would be \$35 per \$100,000 of valuation per mill; 2 mills would be \$70 per year, or \$6 a month, for each \$100,000 of valuation. A 2-mill levy would generate about \$600,000 annually for the district. If the permanent improvement levy is supported, this will allow us to stabilize our current five-year forecast. We would be able to move 1 mill from our inside millage (or about \$300,000 in annual revenue) back into the General Fund. This move would put our forecast in the black for four years, essentially eliminating the need to ask for new operational dollars until 2019 or beyond.

The board has also been involved in looking at the Kent State proposal over the last several months. The concept is to have a 7-12 grade campus built at Kent State Geauga Campus. There are many unknowns at this point, but one certainty is that a board decision to participate must be made prior to September. There is pending legislation that will allow the Ohio School Facilities Commission to provide a 50-50 split with communities. Basically, this means the taxpayer will pay 50% of the cost of building as well as upgrading facilities that would house elementary students. The board has, without an official vote, stated that they are strongly considering opting out of this proposal at this time.

I believe once an official vote takes place not to participate, many minds will be put at ease, and we can continue to focus our support on what we need to accomplish for the students and families of Cardinal. The future is bright, and we have many things happening that will benefit our students. As I shared in my last article: "It's exciting to see what the future holds here in Cardinal as I resolve to stay the course and build with a focus on the students of the Cardinal Local School District."

Please feel free to contact me by email or phone. I can be reached at scott.hunt@cardinalschoools.org, at 632-0261, or follow me on Twitter @DrSJHunt.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott J. Hunt

Cardinal Superintendent

AROUND the CORNER

Open Wide at SMOKED SOUTHERN DELI

Be prepared to open wide at the new Smoked Southern Deli, located in Harrington Square Mall, at 15561 W. High Street in Middlefield Village.

Owners Jason and Carie Black have spent their entire life in the restaurant business, and it shows in their outstanding dishes. Jason began working at McDonald's at age 15, and Carie started working at concession stands at county fairs at the tender age of 12.

"Jason has been working at restaurants his entire life," the proud wife exclaims. "He grew up in Oregon, worked at high-end restaurants in Boston, and we both worked at restaurants in South Carolina for five years before moving to Middlefield. I worked at Mary Yoder's for six years prior to marrying Jason and moving to South Carolina."

Carie, a West Farmington native, is excited to be back in the area. "Jason and I love living here. We like the neighborly feel of Middlefield. It's like the South in the North."

The hardworking couple have brought a taste of the South with them in opening Smoked Southern Deli in May. "All of our meats are smoked," describes Carie. "I love sandwiches of all kinds. My favorite is our turkey rubin."

"My favorite is our Bubba's Pulled Pork," adds Jason, the one-and-only chef at Smoked Southern Deli. "It's the most popular item on our menu."

Menu items include such tempting appetizers as Fried Chicken and Waffles; Smoked Brisket Nachos; Fried Pickles; and Pulled Pork Egg Rolls. Delicious sandwiches on the menu include "Big Daddy." Can you guess what that is? Well, folks, it's a chicken breast, grilled onions, and provolone topped with honey mustard.

"Jason and I love living here. We like the neighborly feel of Middlefield. It's like the South in the North."

— Carie Black, co-owner, Smoked Southern Deli



Smoked Southern Deli owners Jason and Carie Black with Carie's mother, Deb.

Don't forget to try "Giddy Up" — a brisket, Carolina BBQ, smothered in pickled onions and horseradish Dijon. Also on the menu is the "Apple of My Eye" — a brisket, peppers, onions, mushrooms and provolone, and "Smoked Mountain Club" — turkey, brisket, smoked cheddar, and bacon topped with BBQ mayo. Sides include mac-n-cheese, potato salad, baked beans, macaroni salad, fries, coleslaw and side salad. But, don't miss out on dessert — homemade lemon sorbet topped with fresh fruit.

Smoked Southern Deli offers carry out to all patrons and delivers to Middlefield businesses.

Open Monday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., it's hard to believe the couple also has five children: Jaryk, 15; Tyler, 13; Johnny, 10; Tanner, 9; and Gabriella, 6.

"I am a hard worker," admits Carie. "I got that from my mom."

Her mother, Deb, also works at the restaurant six days a week.

Smoked Southern Deli is a very family-friendly restaurant. The dining room has a children's corner complete with coloring books and crayons for young guests. It also offers a kids' menu.

Carie concludes, "People can expect really good food and friendly service when they walk through our doors." 🌿

New Businesses & Businesses Expanding in Middlefield Village

Leslie Gambosi-McCoy, MBA, Economic Development Director/Zoning Inspector for Middlefield Village, is excited to welcome the following new businesses to Middlefield Village and recognize those businesses undergoing expansions:

Briar Cliff (expansion begins summer 2015)

Game Trek II (not open yet)

The Dental Specialty Group

Fastenal Company

Skillful Games

K&K Barn Sales

Smoked Southern Deli

Vinny's Pizza (relocated to former Wendy's)

MyOfit (relocation to larger space) 🌿

Beekeeper Visits Cardinal Intermediate School Ecology Club

Students Discover Importance of Pollination

The Cardinal Intermediate School Ecology Club was buzzing with excitement on April 23, 2015 after a visit from beekeeper Christine Kayla, from John's Country Nursery in Middlefield. Kayla, who is the former Geauga County Bee Inspector, visited the third and fourth graders to discuss the importance of pollination and the role bees play in it.

"The Ecology Club is looking into the importance of our environment in sustaining a balanced and thriving ecosystem," Ecology Club Advisor and 4th grade teacher Charlotte Torre explains. "Pollinators happen to

be an integral part of any environment; without those types of pollinating organisms, we would not have plants, which provide the base for all other consumers in food chains and food webs."



Student Troy F. dresses like a beekeeper.

Kayla spent about an hour with the Club, using classroom volunteers to help explain the hierarchy of bee hives and the relationship between the Queen, Worker, and Drone bees. Students asked a lot of questions and were fascinated to discover how bee hives are created and maintained. One student even got to dress in a beekeeper suit to help demonstrate the safety precautions beekeepers take when tending to their hives. Kayla also supplied the students with crackers and a sample of honey to taste. She left them with a coupon for a free pack of seeds at John's Country Nursery that they can plant and help the bees continue their pollination mission!

Torre says, "We are so appreciative of the time Ms. Kayla took out of her busy schedule to come in, speak to our students and share her expertise. Our club is full of eager students who enjoy learning about new ecological topics, and this lesson, not only created a lot of buzz about pollination, but the concept is also sticking with the students as they leave the classroom."

The Cardinal Intermediate School Ecology Club is made up of third and fourth graders from Mr. Topalian and Ms. Torre's classes. Mr. Topalian and Ms. Torre present a list of potential discussion topics to the club and then allow the 43 students to vote on which topic they'd like to learn more about during their Ecology enrichment period. Along with pollination, students have studied greenhouse gases, global warming, pollution, whaling, tree identification, endangered species, and recycling. 🌿



Christine Kayla, from John's Country Nursery, talks to the CIS Ecology Club about the importance of bees and pollination.

MIDDLEFIELD'S GOT TALENT, TOO!

Once again, performers of all ages gathered to sing, dance, perform an instrument or display another unique talent to capture the hearts and prizes awarded at the "Middlefield's Got Talent, Too" contest.

After a hard-fought competition, the finalists will compete on June 20th. They are featured here on pages 7-18.

Get in on the fun! Go ahead and tear out each contestant's page and have them sign their photo at the Middlefield's Got Talent, Too finale during Summer Fest on June 20th.

You are invited to the finalé on *JUNE 20th* to meet the finalists!

cut here



KATIE BAUM



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KATIE BAUM

Katie Baum is 16 years old and an 11th grader at Chardon High School.

Katie will be singing in the Middlefield's Got Talent, Too final.

When asked to tell us something unique about herself, Katie says,

"I am going to major in musical theater when I go to college."

INTERESTS/HOBBIES: singing, dancing and baking cupcakes

WHO INSPIRES YOU: Marina and the Diamonds

cut here



ELAINE & GRACE BONTRAGER



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ELAINE & GRACE BONTRAGER

Elaine Bontrager is 12 years old and in the 7th grade. She is being homeschooled.

Elaine will be performing a piano duet at the Middlefield's Got Talent, Too finalé.

When asked to tell us something unique about herself, Elaine exclaims,

"I love Jesus!"

INTERESTS/HOBBIES: piano, ballet, arts & crafts, gardening, reading and playing with her sister

WHO INSPIRES YOU: "My piano teacher."

Grace Bontrager is 10 years old and in the 5th grade. Like her sister Elaine, she is being homeschooled.

Grace will be performing a piano duet at the Middlefield's Got Talent, Too finalé.

When asked to tell us something unique about herself, Grace echoes her sister's response,

"I love Jesus!"

INTERESTS/HOBBIES: piano, ballet, arts & crafts, gardening, and reading books

WHO INSPIRES YOU: "My mom."

cut here



LINA COURRY



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LINA COURRY

Lina Coury is 17 years old and is in the 10th grade at Agape Christian Academy.

Lina will be dancing at the Middlefield's Got Talent, Too finalé.

When asked to tell us something unique about herself, Lina exclaims,

*"I like dancing to vocalized hip hop.
I've been dancing since I was 2 years old."*

INTERESTS/HOBBIES: writing and performing dance

WHO INSPIRES YOU: God

cut here



KEVIN NESTOR



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KEVIN NESTOR

Kevin Nestor is 33 years old.

Kevin will be singing at the Middlefield's Got Talent, Too final.

When asked to tell us something unique about himself, Kevin says,

"I am 6'2" tall."

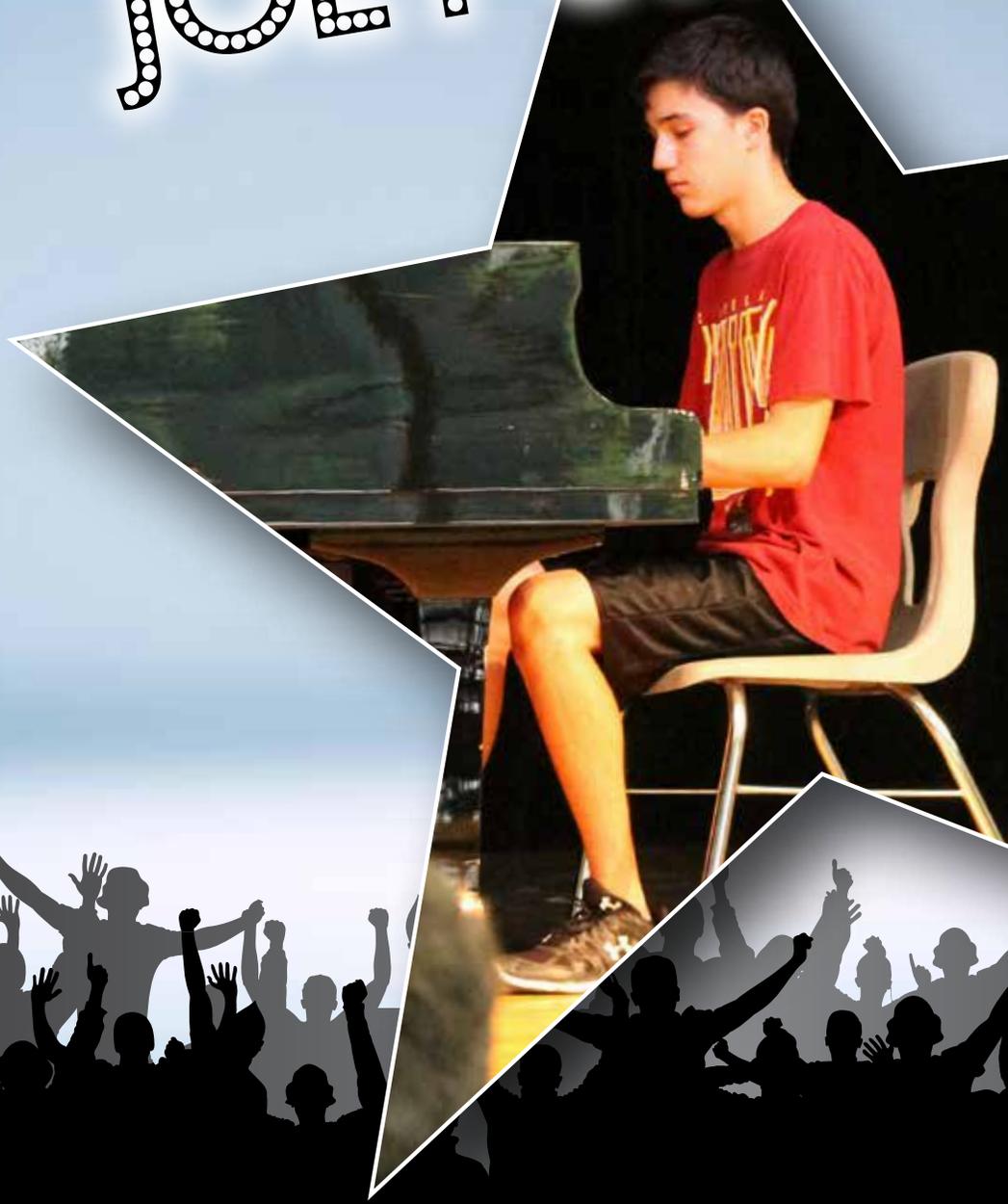
INTERESTS/HOBBIES: collecting action figures

WHO INSPIRES YOU: Laura Klein

cut here



JOEY STRANO



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JOEY STRANO

Joey Strano is in the 8th grade and is being homeschooled.

Joey will be performing the song, "Come Sail Away," on the piano at the Middlefield's Got Talent, Too final.

When asked to tell us something unique about himself, Joey states,

"I am hoping to be in a Christian rock band."

INTERESTS/HOBBIES: drums, piano and basketball

WHO INSPIRES YOU: Jesus, Keith Green and Neil Peart

cut here



BRANDON WROBLESKY



BRANDON WROBLESKY

Brandon Wroblesky is 18 years old and is a graduate of the Class of 2015 at Cardinal High School.

Brandon will be performing guitar and singing at the Middlefield's Got Talent, Too final.

When asked to tell us something unique about himself, Brandon shares,

"I underwent four open heart surgeries when I was only one week old up until age five."

INTERESTS/HOBBIES: drums and guitar

WHO INSPIRES YOU: "My friend Daniel Yutzy from Abundant Life Church of God."

Make a Difference in Your Community by Becoming a



WorkReation opportunities are available in many areas within the MiddlefieldRecreation Department. Jobs may involve helping at special events; assisting with recreation programs by refereeing, scorekeeping, or assisting a coach; or office or park work. Participants do not receive any monetary compensation but earn valuable job experience and community service hours. Volunteers will be placed in a position that matches their interests and capabilities. Hours are flexible and mutually arranged by a staff member from the Recreation Department and participant.



ABSORB YOURSELF IN PLAY

- Assist recreation leaders with youth programs and special events at our local parks.
- Develop important leadership skills that can be extremely valuable to you in whatever career path you choose.
- Take action by helping to coach a youth sport and accelerate your self-confidence while mentoring young athletes.
- Receive work experience to add to your resume for future jobs or college, and collect service credits needed to fulfill school requirements.

RECREATE YOURSELF!

Volunteering with Middlefield Recreation is fun, challenging and rewarding.

- Collect service credits needed to fulfill school requirements
- Discover and develop new talents
- Mentor children and make a difference in their lives
- Share yourself and what you know
- Experience the personal satisfaction of contributing to your community
- Explore career possibilities
- Gain valuable leadership skills
- Get healthier; be more active, relieve stress, fight boredom, and exercise
- Grow your knowledge and understanding of local government
- Increase your confidence and self esteem
- Meet people; make friends and build local connections
- Refine your social skills
- Enhance your resume
- Secure job references

To learn more about opportunities where you can make an impact in your community, contact Billie Warren, Recreation Director, at (440) 632-5248 or billie@middlefieldohio.com 🌿

Village of Middlefield

Where Families Grow Strong

more... Middlefield Recreation Department News

Upcoming Programs!

TACKLE FOOTBALL

Ages 5-12 years. Fees vary \$130-\$150. **Register by June 26.**

FOOTBALL CHEERLEADING

Ages 4-12 years. Fees vary \$75-\$85. **Register by June 26.**

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

This year, quite a few baseball and softball teams competed in Middlefield Recreation. The players ranged in age from 4 years to 16 years old. The teams played games in Middlefield, Huntsburg, Parkman, Burton, Chardon, Ledgemont, West Geauga, Kirtland and Kenston. 🌿



SOCCER

Ages 4-12 years. Fees vary \$50-\$75. **Register by July 31.**

VOLLEYBALL

3rd-6th grade. Fees vary \$70-\$80. **Register by September 4.**

Cardinal Schools Recognize Vets

Cardinal schools are officially recognizing alumni who have served in any branch of the Armed Services. A sign thanking alumni for their military service now hangs in Cardinal High School. The sign was designed by high school science teacher Dave Bronson and created by Cardinal Alumni Christina Zeigler, of Designs by Dianna. Cardinal High School Principal Jeremy Hunter, who was instrumental in launching this project, says the District is working to create a recognition plaque as well to honor Cardinal military alumni. Nomination forms for plaque recognition can be found on Cardinal's website, www.cardinalschools.org. 🌿



CHS science teacher Dave Bronson stands next to the military banner he helped design to thank alumni who have served in the Armed Services.



Cops 'N Kids "Take Me Fishing"

Middlefield Recreation Department and Middlefield Police Department are once again hosting an exciting, fun-filled day of fishing for kids and their families. Families in the community are invited to come to Mineral Lake Park with their fishing poles, tackle boxes and bait and take part in the Middlefield "Cops 'N Kids Fishing Fun Day" on June 13th at 9 to 11 a.m. This event is for children 4 to 15 years old. 🌿

Amish Buggy Classic

Get ready to lace up your running shoes and join us for the Amish Buggy Classic Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, July 25th. Enjoy our course that will travel through the backroads of Middlefield, starting and ending on Sperry Lane. This year's 5K race will begin promptly at 8 a.m. with the one-mile fun run/walk beginning at 8:45 a.m. Be sure to pre-register to guarantee your race shirt. Race shirts will not be guaranteed the day of the race. 🌿

For up-to-the-minute news on school closings, local weather, community services and local stories, visit the Village of Middlefield website.

www.middlefieldohio.com

And for your one-stop resource for all the local business news, visit:

www.middlefieldmeansbusiness.com

