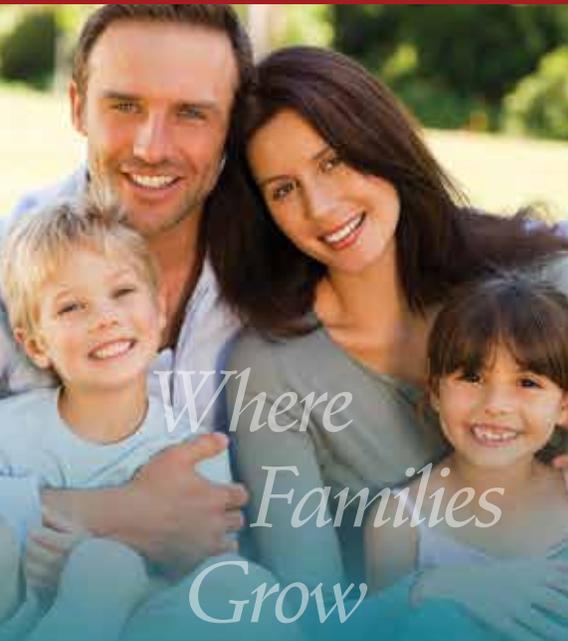




Village of Middlefield

Issue 14 | Spring 2016



Where Families Grow Strong

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Mark your calendars now for Middlefield Village's

SUMMER FEST 2016

Mark your calendars today to attend the Village of Middlefield's Summer Fest 2016 on Saturday, June 18th.

Young and old alike are sure to find Summer Fest a lot of fun. This year's Summer Fest will again begin with a parade at 1 p.m. featuring more than 50 floats and entertainment. If you would like to register a float, please go to the Village of Middlefield website at middlefieldohio.com. (Those participating in the parade are asked to line up at 11:30 a.m.) Forrest Klingman will serve as the Grand Marshal. The former Middlefield Village Police Chief first served in that capacity when the Police Department was only one police officer strong!

After the parade, families and friends should then make their way to Harrington Square where there will be plenty of food vendors, novelty booths, games and rides to test your bravery and skill. Attractions and entertainment will include a Barrel Train

Ride, Zip Line, Mechanical Bull, Mark the Magician, Rocket Car, Photo Booth, Dunk Tank (with proceeds going to support Shop with Cops), inflatables, speed pitch, bungee basketball and an obstacle course.

Summer Fest is truly a time to enjoy Middlefield Village's amazing community spirit. 🌊

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR SUMMER FEST.

Please contact **Billie Warren**, Recreation Director, at 440.632.3526 or cell at 440.488.7572 if you are interested in volunteering on this day.



Village of Middlefield

Where Families Grow Strong

Letter from the Mayor



Ben Garlich,
Mayor, Village
of Middlefield

I had the privilege of being Mayor in the years 1994 -1999. I am now in my first year of my second term. My return and first term started in 2012, and this term will end at the end of 2019. I've certainly enjoyed the experience and challenge to-date, and we have done our best to provide value for all residents. But as I reflect on the term during the 90's and the current terms, they are sharply different. During my term in the 90's I spoke at the 100th anniversary of Johnson Rubber that was still successful and employed many residents. I remember growing up and carpooling with parents after sport practices, and most of the parents worked at Johnson Rubber. When I ran in 1999, I thought about reducing the local income tax from 1% to a rate of ½%. We were growing at a rapid rate, revenue increased every year during that period, and we were easily able to provide lots of services and maintain all infrastructure in a timely manner. Additionally, 10,000 people traveled daily to employment at one of our Village businesses. The Village provided top-notch services to residents, and we felt our area would continue to grow. New housing developments were slated and developing as well as new factories and retail centers. We welcomed and managed the growth.

The situation today is somewhat different. The situation is not unique to Middlefield but is a reality all communities need to deal with. The bullish attitude experienced

in the 90's is not nearly as prevalent. Our revenues are not at the level they were and many state provided funds have been eliminated. Middlefield has been strapped with long-term debt due to environmental mandates, and the cost of continuing to provide services has naturally risen over the years. We are no longer managing growth; we are in the business of creating it. We've performed audits for operational efficiency to insure we are operating optimally, and we continue to market and advertise our Village. We are doing everything we can to create top-line growth and control costs. We still enjoy outstanding safety and village services many communities don't provide. Our water and sewer rates are some of the lowest in the area as well as our income tax rate of 1%. I recently drove from Tulsa, Oklahoma to Cleveland, and the blight that I saw where entire communities were basically destroyed was alarming.

Our goal is to have a thriving community where the economy is vibrant, and people have quality of life with amenities and services that make the area attractive. This can only be achieved with the support of the entire community. We must be active in the maintenance of our properties, support our local businesses and be active members in supporting our community. I look forward to the next four years, but it will take the effort and support of all to insure we maintain and improve. I appreciate your financial and personal support as we continue to move Middlefield Village forward.

Regards,

Ben Garlich

Mayor
Village of Middlefield
Cell: 440.313.8906
Direct Dial: 440.632.3520

Local Resident Turns 100!

It's not every day that someone celebrates their 100th birthday. Ben Garlich, Mayor of Middlefield Village, and the Middlefield Village Council presented Pauline Fritinger with a proclamation recognizing her 100th birthday during the February 11th council meeting.

Born on January 19, 1916, Pauline grew up in Painesville. She married Clare Fritinger and worked for many years at Scott's Bakery, located inside White Brothers Store in Middlefield.

Pauline still enjoys cake decorating, reading, knitting, baking bread and playing Bingo!

Congratulations, Pauline!

1916





HEXPOL'S GOLD KEY PROCESSING

Growing an Organization by Growing its People

“You can have an open door policy, but if no one knows where your office is or they don't feel comfortable stopping in, then it doesn't matter if your door is open.”

- Jerry Saxion, Managing Director of Gold Key Processing, Inc.



Jerry Saxion

As you walk through the front door of Gold Key Processing, Inc., the first thing you experience is a warm, friendly, family environment that makes you feel as if you just walked into a friend's home. You then notice on the large monitor in the reception area, a personal welcome to you from Jerry Saxion, Managing Director, on behalf of the entire Gold Key family, followed by a quote that reads, “You Grow an Organization by Growing its People.”

Gold Key Processing, Inc. located in Middlefield, Ohio, is an independent business unit of HEXPOL Compounding, one of the world's leading companies in the development and production of advanced, high-quality polymer compounds, and is one of only a few truly global companies in the industry. HEXPOL is a world-leading polymers group with strong global market positions in advanced polymer compounding with 38 production units in 11 countries with approximately 3,900 associates. This includes 10 production units strategically located throughout the United States and two in Mexico.

Gold Key's 162,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art campus is located on 19 acres. It was founded in 1997 upon an excellent culture and committed workforce dedicated to world-class customer service.

The diverse market segments serviced include automotive, building, construction, agriculture, heavy equipment, belt, gasket, aerospace, pharmaceutical and green energy. Within these markets are both small and large customers that require a wide range of support from Gold Key's highly skilled technical team who develop a recipe and follow it all the way through to the customer's production process.

As you get to know Jerry Saxion and the 187 Gold Key associates, you realize the quote in the reception area is more than just a quote, and the warm feeling you experienced when you walked in the door is more of a culture than a feeling. Saxion says there is an intentional daily focus on developing people and creating a positive, family-focused culture within Gold Key and all the HEXPOL campuses.

“Gold Key offers customers advanced polymer compounds and world-class services backed by a family of associates who are dedicated to personal, professional, community and customer growth,” Saxion says. “This long-term growth, which is an overall goal, is achieved through highly effective processes carried out in a safe environment characterized by continuous improvements to provide a superior quality product and customer experience. This is made possible by well-trained, dedicated, humble and highly skilled

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Village of Middlefield

Where Families Grow Strong

To Preserve and Protect

Letter from Dr. Scott J. Hunt, Superintendent of Cardinal Local Schools

Dr. Scott J. Hunt,
Superintendent



As the 2015-16 school year wraps up, the Cardinal Local School District has entered a phase where we now need to take stock in what we provide for our students, families, and community so that collectively we can determine what to preserve and protect. We have reached a critical junction this spring where we need to rely on the quality of our programs and student accomplishments as evidence of our excellence.

Over the last month, myself and many other superintendents across the state have made public presentations and strong admonishments about the Department of Education and the State Report Card. At first glance, our report card doesn't do us justice as compared to the actual achievements and accomplishments we have realized this year. The changes in grade calculations, the discrepancies between the online tests and the paper tests, the transition from PARCC tests to AIR tests, and the fact that districts are in Safe Harbor from "punishments" for poor grades paints an unfair picture of many districts to their public, and this includes Cardinal Schools. I have asked, "How is it that Cardinal High School has met all expectations on the report card this year but the other grade levels have struggled?" Think about it...it doesn't make sense.

Consider these facts: Cardinal implemented a 1 to 1 iPad rollout for all high school students, installed a state-of-the-art distance learning lab, granted more than 402 credits through the College Credit Plus program with courses taught by our teachers, a project-based learning partnership with Great Lakes Growers, a middle school robotics competition team, a One School One Book program across three buildings, students excelling in the fine arts, academics, and athletics...to name only a handful of things to be proud of. I call that Value Added.



We have been able to accomplish all of the above and more in the midst of a budget crisis. Our district has persevered through a potential consolidation, decreasing revenues, state funding reductions, rising expenditures in health care, and a failed levy in November.

First, Cardinal no longer meets the criteria for the proposed consolidation. As reported in the Maple Leaf on March 17, 2016, House Bill 148 was modified to limit the qualifications for school districts to consolidate.

"One was to limit the qualifications to apply for the 50/50 funding to those Ohio school districts that have seen a 15 percent decrease in student population over the last 10 years," explained Rep. John Patterson. "That would put a consolidated Newbury and Berkshire district in the top five to receive construction

funding," he said. "Because it has not lost 15 percent of its student population over the last 10 years, Cardinal Schools would not qualify for the funding"

Next, the district has lost over \$10 million in Tangible Personal Property (TPP) tax since 2006. We will continue to see reductions in TPP until we no longer receive this revenue. This loss has severely hampered the budget.

In addition, we have been impacted by reductions in the state foundation formula which is tied to per-pupil funding. The TPP loss and the foundation changes are not the only losses we have had to compensate for. The rising cost of healthcare, this year over \$500,000, has created the need for the district to be on the ballot in August.

So back to where I began. We, collectively, need to determine what we want to Preserve and Protect. Regardless of the current reality, our students continue to excel, achieve, and progress and their future will be dictated by what we, collectively, do next.

Please feel free to contact me by email or phone. I can be contacted via email scott.hunt@cardinalschools.org or in the office at 6320261.

Also, follow me on Twitter @DrSJHunt.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott J. Hunt

Cardinal Superintendent



Congratulations to the CHS students who were selected to play in the CVC Honors Band concert on Thursday, April 28!

Members included:

Megan M., Ella R., Morgan S., Faith P., Jocelyn B., Michelle M., Abby M., Brittany C., Korey V., Anna A., Kathryn D., Aidan W., and Mitchel S.

AROUND the CORNER

Harrington Plaza Development

Back in the mid-1980s, Dave and Becky Harrington had a problem, and it was a big one for the owners of the small, commercial, strip plaza in Middlefield. Valu King grocery, a major anchor tenant in their Harrington Square, had moved out and relocated across the street on the west side of Middlefield. It was transitioning to a Giant Eagle. The Harringtons knew the loss would hurt the plaza's other tenants. A grocery store, along with a general retail business, a pharmacy and a medical office are part of a formula for a healthy neighborhood strip plaza. The Harringtons had built the plaza a few years earlier, and the situation was dire.

A MARKET ANALYSIS – AMISH-STYLE

The Harringtons had an important advantage on their side: they understood their community. Harrington was raised in Middlefield. His grandfather, Charlie, owned Middlefield Hardware starting in the 1920s. His Amish customers – loyal and frugal – supported the downtown store. If they needed something after hours, they unlocked the door, found what they needed, and recorded the sale in a thick ledger his grandfather kept on the counter. Dave Harrington still has the ledger, with the names neatly written inside.

“ It has always stayed a type of working-class shopping center that provides for the community's needs,”

– Dave Harrington, owner, Harrington Square

Becky and Dave Harrington knew they needed to act to keep their plaza tenants healthy. A friend in nearby Garrettsville was in the grocery business and told them about an up-and-coming discount food store: Save-A-Lot. The friend had seen one in Portsmouth along the Ohio River. Residents of the working class area waited in line for the store to open, drawn by the low prices and quality store brands.



Dave and Becky Harrington

The Harringtons went to see for themselves. What they heard was true. They decided to do their own market research. Middlefield is dominated by Amish families. It's a little understood, private religious sect virtually ignored by big-city market analysts. "It was a market nobody understood," he says. "But, I was born there."

The Harringtons headed to the closest Save-A-Lot store in Mansfield. They walked through the discount grocery and "bought 10 of everything," Harrington recalls. Corn flakes. Cans of soup. Pop. Beans. They loaded it all in their car, divided the items into 10 boxes, and dropped them off at Amish friends' and acquaintances' homes. Try these, the Harringtons urged. Tell us what you think.

Dave Harrington went back a week later to talk to their "focus group." Right away, families wanted to pay the Harringtons for the products – an offer they firmly refused. The families liked the items and were impressed with the low prices, especially after the Harringtons showed them the register receipts. Market analysis done. After three years without a grocery store, the couple knew they had found a winner: Save-A-Lot.

KEEPING TENANTS

The land on which the Harringtons developed the plaza originally was the site of an auxiliary business to the family's downtown hardware store. They had outgrown the space, and Harrington built a warehouse for the store's retail snowmobile, tractor and other large items on land west of the center of the village. By that time his father, Richard, was running the downtown business.

When his dad sold the downtown hardware store, Dave Harrington moved the store into the new strip plaza he had built on the 15-acre parcel that the auxiliary building sat on. The store joined other major tenants that he had secured. Included was Middlefield's new McDonalds.

Retail giant Walmart came into the mix in 2004. The company made it clear that it was moving to the rural community – the only question was where. The Harringtons met with their tenants and explained the situation. Yes, Walmart could hurt their businesses in the short run, but it also could attract new customers to the area. Walmart was a reality. If it moved in a mile down the road, customers – and business – would go there, too. It was a tough decision, but they figured it was better to have Walmart near the plaza rather than somewhere else.

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Village of Middlefield

Where Families Grow Strong

AROUND
the
CORNER

Harrington Plaza Development

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They sold the land to a development company, which in turn sold it to Walmart. It's been a huge draw since, boosting traffic and helping to keep the small plaza healthy. The plaza is the Harrington's main business. They own another five acres that could be developed and have a 2,000-square-foot building available for rent. They have no specific plans to expand or go into other ventures in Geauga County, although they're "always looking," Harrington says.

The Harringtons says over the years the plaza and its tenants have weathered skyrocketing interest rates, a limp economy, and the usual challenges that face any small business. "It has always stayed a type of working-class shopping center that provides for the community's needs," Harrington says.

Within the past few years, the plaza has seen construction of a free-standing building for U.S. Bank, Valley Care and MyoFit Clinic, a physical therapy office. Other tenants in the plaza are Valley Care, Middlefield Family Dental, Studio for Hair, McDonald's, Geauga Cleaners, Beltone, Sears, Middlefield Clinic, La-Z-Boy, Dr. Louis Saliba, Hilltop Variety, El Patron, Maggie's Doughnuts, Family Dollar, Curves, accountant Ted Reed and Marge's Smoke Shop, Beaches and Dreams and outdoor barn sales, along with Save-A-Lot.

The Amish community continues to be a vital part of the plaza's success. A good combination of tenants and Walmart traffic have kept most of the storefronts full in recent years. Visitors can grocery shop, buy clothing, and exercise all in the same plaza. It's a formula that works – and succeeds – in large part because the owners understand the community. "Without the industrial base (in Middlefield), there would not be a commercial base," Dave says. "When KraftMaid lays off people, we see it immediately. When the people aren't working, they don't go to dinner, and they're not banking there," he notes.

"I'm a hands-on guy. (The tenants) know me. They know how to get a hold of me. We just try to keep them in business and keep it full," Harrington says. "Our philosophy is the more the merrier. Harrington Square has been good for us." 🌿

Annual Clean-Up Day

The Village of Middlefield will hold its Annual Clean-Up Day on **May 21**. Universal Disposal will once again do house-to-house curb pickup starting at **6:30 a.m.**

FRIENDLY REMINDERS: Freon does not have to be removed from appliances. Doors **MUST** be removed from refrigerator and freezers. Unacceptable items include: Paint, hazardous chemicals, batteries, yard waste, metal items over 4 foot in length, and tires. 🌿



FUN IN THE SUN Eagle Park Set to Open

Unique to Middlefield Village in Geauga County is Eagle Park! Opening day for the water park is **Friday, May 27**. The water is on from **9 a.m. to 8 p.m.** Take time this summer to enjoy the warm, sunny days with your children and grandchildren. Middlefield Village truly is a great place to work and raise a family! 🌿

Middlefield's Caring Community "Lights the Night" for Local Resident Battling Cancer

Hundreds of Middlefield Village residents of all ages came out to show their support for Michelle Abram Schwendeman, carrying luminary lights in front of her home on West High Street on **April 15**. Michelle is battling cancer.

The lights were eventually placed in the shape of a heart to express the love of Middlefield's entire community. 🌿



Cops N' Kids Take Me Fishing

Cops N' Kids Fishing will be held from **9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on June 11** at Bob Giardina Lake (formally known as Mineral Lake). Families are encouraged to bring their fishing poles and enjoy a morning of fishing with the Middlefield Police Department. Children receive a t-shirt and tackle box. Walmart supplies the bait and the morning concludes at 11 a.m. with pizza and prizes. 🌿



ADULT BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT WINNERS

On **April 23rd**, Middlefield Recreation Department held their first Adult Basketball Tournament. The first place team was coached by Jack Knight, and the second place team was coached by Brandon Blystone. 🌿

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Upcoming Deadlines:

Football: June 17th

Cheerleading: June 17th

Fall Soccer: July 22nd

Volleyball: August 26th

LET'S KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE Sign up now for Safety Town

The Village of Middlefield has offered Safety Town for 20 plus years now. This year's Safety Town is scheduled for June 6 - 10 at Jordak Elementary. Children, ages 4-7, will participate in different color groups and learn about being safe from many different speakers throughout the week including the Middlefield Police Department, Middlefield Fire Department, Community Care Ambulance, Geauga County Health Department, Geauga YMCA, and Jordak Elementary staff. The children will also receive valuable information on how to stay safe and head home with a new bike helmet.

Safety Town also helps children become familiar with Jordak Elementary, where they will be attending school in the fall.

Don't miss the conclusion of Safety Town on June 10. The Safety Town graduates will sing their safety songs learned during the week for their family and friends.

The deadline to sign up is May 15th. Class minimum is 20 participants. 🌿



Amish Buggy Classic Race Celebrates 16th Year

This year makes the 16th year of the Amish Buggy Classic. The 5K has a new date. It will be held on **June 18th at 8 a.m.** at the Sperry Pavilion at Mineral Lake Park. The first 100 runners to sign up will receive a t-shirt. Fresh fruit and snacks will be provided after the race. A 1-mile fun run will follow the 5K. 🌿



Village of Middlefield

Where Families Grow Strong



HEXPOL'S GOLD KEY PROCESSING Growing an Organization by Growing its People

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employees who are proud of their work and do their utmost every day to support each other and satisfy our customers.”

As he describes Gold Key’s capabilities of four production mixing lines, in-line straining, pelletizing, black and color compounds, special elastomers, custom final forms, stringent ISO 9001 certified quality management system and fully integrated production process system, you find him ending with what really matters in being a market leader-- the people. Saxion says, “You must intentionally focus on hiring, developing and growing leaders by providing them the training and tools they need to be successful. You can have the best facility, equipment and systems, but it is trained and well-equipped people that make the difference.”

One of Gold Key’s proudest achievements is the Top Work Place award we received the last three years in a row -- also achieved by HEXPOL Burton Rubber for the first time last year. Saxion says, “This award reflects the hard work we do as a HEXPOL team to create a great place to work in Geauga County; a positive environment that is actually felt and appreciated by our associates because their perception is our reality. I work with the greatest group of people in the industry and we are accountable

to do the right thing every day for our associates, customers and community. As John Maxwell says, ‘Everything Rises and Falls on Leadership.’”

Saxion keeps his office door open and promotes associates to stop in and talk. He keeps a selection of Gold Key caps and hats on hand. When someone stops in and talks with him, they get one. Saxion also wears steel-toe boots every day so he can walk through the production area and check in with workers. “I spend as much time as I can with associates on the floor. I want them to be just as comfortable stopping in here,” he says. “You can have an open door policy, but if no one knows where your office is or they don’t feel comfortable stopping in, then it doesn’t matter if your door is open.” Saxion has located his office next to the campus lunch room and close to the production area.

Gold Key has an extremely strong focus on cleanliness, and it is very apparent throughout the campus. When Saxion walks the floor, he carries a broom to sweep up any debris. Saxion believes in leading by example and explains, “We are a team. We support each other. We have high standards, and it is just as much my responsibility to pick up and clean up as it is every associate’s at Gold Key.”

This attention to growing employees and offering leadership opportunities helps the company in many ways. One example is in the company’s conference room where Saxion keeps an empty chair with the word, “Customer,” taped to the back. It’s a not-so-subtle reminder to everyone to remember their decisions and discussions ultimately affect customers. “(It) reminds us that, in every decision we make, we want to remember they’re in the room with us,” he says.

Gold Key Processing is a great example of a company that is highly technical and focused on success but remains humble in their approach with its associates, its customers and the community. Gold Key has found success in keeping it simple -- focusing on the basics and doing the right thing every day. Learn more about Gold Key Processing, Inc at www.hexpolcompounding.com 🌿

“ I work with the greatest group of people in the industry and we are accountable to do the right thing every day for our associates, customers and community.”

- Jerry Saxion, Managing Director of Gold Key Processing, Inc.



For up-to-the-minute news on school closings, 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

