

By Mayor Ben Garlich

I've received numerous calls in the last few years regarding homes where regular maintenance has not been performed and the caller wanted some governmental assistance in addressing the issue. In the last few months these calls have increased.

We realize the importance of an aesthetically-pleasing Village for the support of future growth and investment. A few years ago we implemented a program called "Neat Streets" where we reviewed property and notified those owners of property needing attention. Along with this we implemented a subsidy program where residents could apply for a refund up to \$300 to help with those repairs.

Many residents have taken advantage of this program and I applaud those that participated proactively and were not performing the maintenance due to a notice letter from the Village Neat Streets review. I urge each of you to be respectful of your neighbors by ensuring your property does not negatively impact the appeal of your neighbor's property. For many people their home is their largest asset and the value plays a major part in their financial wellbeing. Many of the issues I see are problems that can be resolved without a monetary investment; organization and removal of debris would resolve many issues.

The Village provides a free annual trash day which is coming up next month. It is the opportunity to ensure your property is neat and debris free. I want the current programs to work and with your effort and cooperation they will. Please do your part in being a good neighbor.

Activity involving our board of Planning and Zoning has been slower than I would like to see. We need to be working on additional investment that will bring value to residents and give us the ability to maintain services that we all have grown to appreciate. I can assure you we are working hard on making all potential projects a reality. As I mentioned in the last article, I look forward to the day when detail can be provided on some of the projects currently being discussed.

The buggy lanes for Routes 608 and 87 are still on our agenda. I recently attended the annual Geauga Small Business Expo hosted at Pine Craft Storage Barns. It makes you realize the potential we have as a region. We must work together to make the most of all local resources.

Please be informed, be involved, shop Middlefield Village and visit www.middlefieldohio.com