

By Mayor Ben Garlich

We will soon be celebrating Memorial Day to honor those that gave the ultimate sacrifice.

The older I get, the more I realize the effort required to maintain so many things I previously took for granted such as health, friends, safety and many other items that contribute to quality of life. All of these require effort but none more important to all of us than freedom.

It is so important that we remain educated and energetic regarding ideals and efforts that will continue to preserve the freedom of this great country. I see individuals that take for granted and somehow feel it will self-sustain and it is something we are owed.

We enjoy the privileges today due to more than 200 years of foresight, effort and sacrifice. We must educate our youth and be personally vigilant to ensure this freedom is maintained.

Memorial day is the one day we can come together and pay tribute to those who gave the most to preserve the freedom of our **great and free country**. All are invited to come and march in the parade. Children are encouraged to decorate bicycles. Lineup in the parking lot of the Middlefield Fire Department, at noon, Memorial Day, march to the cemetery and attend the ceremony conducted by our local VFW.

The Village continues to work on initiatives that will help add value to our community. As stated when working with multiple government agencies it takes time and never seems to progress quickly enough. Our second meeting for creation of buggy lanes has been scheduled. ODOT has provided lots of data and conducted a major survey of those impacted and we will be evaluating those and using that information for creating a move forward plan. This will improve safety and logistics for cars as well as buggies.

The Economic Development Committee has completed tweaking the drawings for revitalizing the downtown pocket park. We've received a grant for a portion of the project and are looking for additional government funding as well as thinking of ways to create some local private funding. More to come.

We are still actively pursuing the paving of the bike path from Headlands Park into Middlefield Village. We feel for it to be viable to our residents and create some economic gain for our Village by those using the path, it must be a solid surface.

In addition we still want a local Social Security office (at least a temporary that is available a few days a week), a kiosk for e-check and kiosk for license plate and license renewal.

In addition we are always receptive and looking for new businesses that bring value by improving employment and retail needs.

*Please be informed, be involved, shop Middlefield and visit [www.middlefieldohio.com](http://www.middlefieldohio.com).*