

In every article I write, I close with the tag line be informed, be involved, visit [www.middlefieldohio.com](http://www.middlefieldohio.com) and shop Middlefield. Recently, Council initiated a couple of issues that triggered some resistance; concerned citizens attended meetings, voiced concerns, and sent letters expressing their opinions on these issues. I want to thank those residents that became involved and shared their ideas in a constructive manner helping us make better decisions. We plan our actions to improve our Village and to the benefit of the majority but additional input and participation always results in a better product. Thanks again for taking your time and energy to make a difference.

Middlefield Village has been blessed with several large national and international manufacturers providing employment and tax revenue not common to Villages our size. Due to the strong manufacturing base we have been able to retain a 1 percent income tax, affordable water and sewer rates considerably lower than surrounding areas and maintain superior safety and service departments. Sajar Plastics has been a major valued Middlefield Village employer as long as I can remember. We recently had the opportunity to meet their new owners. It was great to hear the reasoning for the purchase and the business plan for the future which includes retaining all current employees and growing the Middlefield facility. We wish them well and pledge our support to assist them as we are able.

Everywhere I look, I see help wanted signs. In most business-focused conversations the common theme is the inability to find entry level employees. These are jobs that only require the qualities of dependability and willingness to learn. These are jobs that with a desire to become proficient and being an employee that is dependable can lead to long term careers. We have the slogans "Middlefield Means Business" "Where Families Grow Strong" and we need to add "Middlefield Means Jobs." The Village will be organizing efforts to promote this message with the goal of assisting our local companies in securing adequate labor support to maintain and grow their businesses.

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