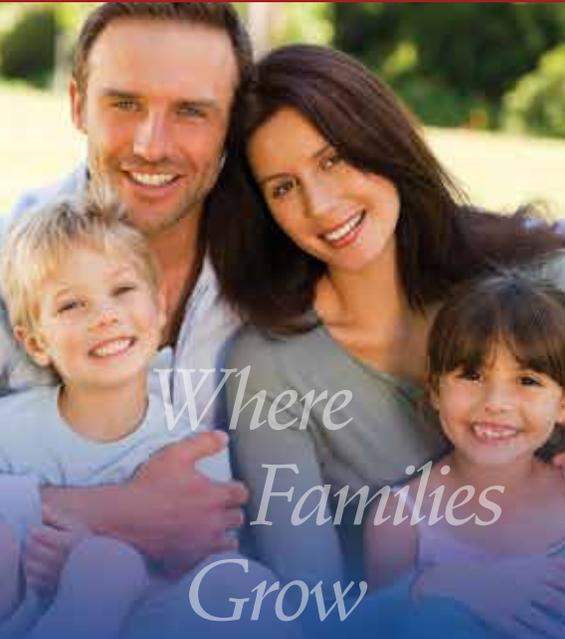


# Village of Middlefield

Issue 15 | Fall 2016



Where  
Families  
Grow  
Strong

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**DON'T FORGET  
TO VOTE ON  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8**



Ben Garlich,  
Mayor, Village of Middlefield

## Letter from the Mayor

I recently had the opportunity to present to residents and members of the business community my annual State of the Village. I reported we are experiencing steady improvement in our overall revenue. The growth is not to the level we desire, but we feel fortunate that it is positive and not declining. State funding has been reduced in many areas, and to overcome, we've needed to aggressively look for initiatives to grow income and reduce costs. All departmental managers are responsible for their budgets and held accountable. We've been creative in restructuring our departments and have plans to combine responsibilities yielding substantially reduced labor costs to the Village.

In addition to reducing costs internally, our business community is showing signs of improvement. Middlefield Village is fortunate to have many national and international companies within our Village limits. New housing starts in the Village are the most we've seen in a decade. All this being said, the economy is far from bullish, and it takes all of our focus to maintain the revenue required to maintain our infrastructure and quality service our residents deserve.

I want to thank the commercial and industrial members of our community and residents who have either expanded or invested in renovating their properties to improve value and aesthetics of the Village. Success breeds success, and I am confident we will see continued growth in the coming years.

The Middlefield Activities Committee (MAC) will be holding the annual Christmas tree lighting at 7 p.m. on November 25th. It is a great way to kick off the Christmas season, and I look forward to seeing many of you there. The committee is also looking at changing the venue for Summer Fest. The changes may include a location and name change. More information to follow as plans formalize.

We all will have the opportunity to vote on November 8th. In multiple conversations, I hear individuals complain about everything from minor to major issues that impact our lives. When I see the stats on voter registration and actual voter turnout at every election, I am disappointed. Often times, I ask the individual complaining if they are registered and, if registered, if they voted. Many times their response is "no" to one or both of the questions. When I inquire why they are not registered or why they didn't vote, the response is usually "What difference does it make?" I can assure you voting has more impact and value than complaining to me or others that you encounter. Please help shape the future of our community, county, state and federal entities by becoming educated on the issues and voting. It is our privilege and responsibility.

Middlefield is a place where "Middlefield Means Business" and "Families Grow Strong." Our Village has had a successful year. I appreciate your help and support as we strive to continue moving our Village forward.

With Sincere Appreciation,

Sincerely,  
*Ben Garlich*

Mayor  
Village of Middlefield  
Cell: 440.313.8906  
Direct Dial: 440.632.3520

## In Geauga County – **BLUE LIVES MATTER!**



Lieutenant Brandon Savage and Police Chief Joe Tucholski

There is something to be said about the boys (and girls) in blue in Geauga County: They've got their communities' backs, and their communities have theirs.

That's according to several law enforcement agencies in the county, who provided insight into what their departments do, their hiring processes, and how they and local citizens are responding to recent national backlash and outcries for increased scrutiny.

With about 140 employees, the largest law enforcement agency in the county is the Geauga County Sheriff's Office, headed by Sheriff Dan McClelland.

The sheriff's office responded to 18,483 calls in 2015.

"You name it, we handled it – unfortunately, from homicide to 'I locked my keys in my car,'" McClelland says.

The countywide agency includes four divisions:

- **Corrections:** Includes the Geauga County jail and employees such as corrections officers, medical personnel and cooks.
- **Law Enforcement:** Includes uniformed first responders and personnel providing security and services to Geauga County Common Pleas Court.

- **Communications:** Provides dispatch for 11 law enforcement and 13 fire and rescue agencies. "This also includes personnel who maintain the county's 800 megahertz radio system that is used by all emergency providers in the county as well as anything from school buses to the county highway engineer," McClelland notes. More than 1,400 radios utilize the system.
- **Records:** In charge of foreclosures for the courts, including the sales of those properties, as well as serving subpoenas, warrants, and various other court documents.

"We also monitor sex offenders in the county, issue Concealed Carry permits – a whole list of other duties," McClelland adds.

In 2015, the sheriff's office:

- answered 20,654 9-1-1 emergency calls;
- answered 54,795 seven-digit dispatch calls;
- served more than 3,000 court papers;
- issued 2,271 Concealed Carry permits; and
- processed 2,932 inmates.

The Geauga County Safety Center, located on Route 44 in Chardon, includes the jail, the dispatch communications center, and

headquarters for the law enforcement division, including the detective and narcotics units and administrative staff.

"We operate the largest hotel in the county – the 182-bed jail," the sheriff jokes. "In 2015, we served 147,000 meals to inmates, so we're one of the bigger restaurants, too."

Another fact McClelland likes to share about the \$15 million safety center, opened in late 2005, is that its construction and operations are largely funded by outside agencies, who pay for their inmates to stay at the jail.

"We built larger than we needed so we could use those funds from outside agencies as a revenue stream," he explains. "The safety center came in under budget and was paid for without having to go for a vote on a tax levy or tax increase.

The Geauga County sheriff reports, "We are on track to make about \$1.2 million this year."

McClelland will retire at the end of 2016 after serving more than 13 years as sheriff and 41 years in the department. Deputy Chief Scott Hildenbrand, who has been with the department since 2003, is uncontested in the race for sheriff this November.

**"The safety center came in under budget and was paid for without having to go for a vote on a tax levy or tax increase."**

- Sheriff Dan McClelland, Geauga County Sheriff's Office

One department dispatched by the Sheriff's office is Chester Township Police, which serves about 11,000 residents throughout its 25 square miles. The department responded to 5,659 incidents last year.

"I've had the luxury of growing up in Chester Township as well as working here for my entire career," says Chester Police Chief Mark Purchase, a 29-year veteran of the force and chief since 2006. "I couldn't think of a better place to work."

The department has 12 full-time and up to four part-time officers, as well as two auxiliary police, who are uniformed volunteer officers.

Ten, full-time officers patrol the approximately 3.8-square-mile Middlefield Village, whose police department averages around 440 calls a month, reports Police Chief Joe Tucholski.

“Traffic citations, traffic warnings, lockouts, alarm drops, thefts, domestics, assist other agencies, warrant arrests, citizen assists, disorderly conduct – we get everything that a big city gets, just at lower quantities,” says Tucholski, chief since April 2014 and a member of the force since 2000.

“Every officer here is responsible for every facet of law enforcement you can think of,” he notes. “Bigger cities have a detective bureau, traffic bureau, school resource officers, different things like that. We do all of that here on our own.”

While Middlefield is home to a population of about 2,700, it is also home to multiple large factories, such as KraftMaid. As a result, Tucholski says, “Around 21,000 or 22,000 cars come through the center of town every day.”

Chardon has a similar story.

The population of Chardon is about 5,000 at night, but swells during the day and on the weekends due to business and pass-through traffic, says Scott Niehus, police chief since 2014.

Niehus’s department includes 12 full-time and seven part-time officers, four full-time and six part-time dispatchers, as well as a records clerk and parking enforcement officer. The department fielded a total of 8,241 calls in 2015.

Chief Jon Bokovitz has been at the helm of the Bainbridge Police Department for almost six years.

His force includes 19 full-time officers, one part-time officer and two K-9s. The department also employs six full-time dispatchers, a clerk and an administrative assistant.

Bainbridge police patrol and protect the township’s 25 square miles and roughly 12,500 population, answering nearly 11,000 calls for service in 2015, according to Bokovitz.

In addition to being a full-service department, Bokovitz says, “We do a lot of public service. That’s the kind of community we are. We do those things because we can.”

For example, the department offers a house watch program for residents when they are out of town, installs car seats, and will come to the rescue if a resident gets locked out of the house.

## **PUBLIC OUTPOURING**

When asked about their communities’ attitude toward police, all of the law enforcement officials shared almost identical stories of outpouring after tragic events such as the fatal shootings of police officers in Dallas, and after local tragedies, too. They’ve received gift cards, sandwich trays, homemade cookies, and, perhaps most meaningfully, appreciation.

“They take time out of their day to bake goods, to stop by to say ‘thank you,’” McClelland says. “We have notes from little children. It was kind of unbelievable, the number of folks at the Geauga County Fair who came up and said thank you. There are even yard signs to support police – ‘Blue Lives Matter.’ Geauga County is a special place.”

Chief Bokovitz agrees. “I have 31 years on this job, and I have never seen a time when we’ve had more public outpouring of support, starting right after Ferguson,” he says. “Our guys are very cognizant that we have the support of the community. And, it’s a two-way street. We have to work to keep that trust. It’s hard to get that back.”

After the Chardon High School shootings in 2012, McClelland says, “You saw the response from Geauga County, from our citizens and neighboring communities as well, to rally and support and pay comfort to the school, community, the families, to the first responders. I get goose bumps just thinking about it. That’s, candidly, why I’ve lived in Geauga County my whole life. I never even went away to college. I commuted. That’s why we call it home.”

Still, profuse reports on police backlash and police brutality have had an impact locally.

“It has absolutely affected every law enforcement individual in this country,” Tucholski says. “We do our jobs as safely and respectfully as possible, and I think it has changed the way we think about – not citizens – but changed the way we think about ourselves. It’s very important to treat everyone we come into contact with with the same amount of respect we would treat

our family members or how we would want our family members to be treated. With our department, we’re just a lot harder on ourselves to make sure we are going above and beyond to make sure we are treating people respectfully and right.”

Bokovitz iterates that although perceptions may have changed, the job has not. “Policemen are people. We are the same as everybody else,” Bokovitz says. “But if you do something against the law or if you do something against somebody else, you’re wrong. That’s all.

“We are not going to change how we do our job. We’re still going to use force. We’ve got to do our jobs. If people want to be confrontational, we’re going to do the appropriate response.

“I started in 1985, and it’s still basically the same as it was 1985,” he says. “If we do our jobs and follow procedures and follow our policies, we shouldn’t have problems.”

Middlefield police have been the target of violence themselves, although the reason may never be known.



*Police Chief Joe Tucholski*

On March 10, 2013, Field Training Officer Brandon Savage and Officer Erin Thomas, who had been on the force for only 30 days, stopped James Gilkerson, 42, of Mentor-on-the-Lake, for running a stop sign.

Gilkerson, who had purchased an AK-47 at a gun show earlier that day, got out of his car and opened fire on the officers, Tucholski says. Savage, who caught shrapnel in his thigh, fatally shot Gilkerson. Thomas lost a finger.

*continued on page 4*

# Village of Middlefield

*Where Families Grow Strong*

## In Geauga County – **BLUE LIVES MATTER!**

*continued from page 3*

“It was devastating,” the police chief says.

Thomas was unable to return to work and is on permanent disability. Savage reported back to duty soon after the shooting and is now a lieutenant.

“We’ve always been a proactive department, but after that happened, we train a little differently with our weapons,” Tucholski notes. “We took personal safety to a whole new level.”

For example, a Special Forces military team trained the force in combat aid, and officers now wear tourniquets on their belts. They also train with weapons more frequently and more than is required by law.

### **SOCIAL CAPITAL**

Another duty for any successful police department is community involvement.

Chardon Police Department is very visible and active in the community, participating in events such as National Night Out; conducting DARE, which encourages students to “respect others and choose to lead lives free from violence, substance abuse, and other dangerous behaviors”; facilitating Shop With Cops; and providing the Officer Phil program. The department also hosts cider and donuts at Chardon Square during the city’s Halloween celebration.

“I call it ‘investing in our social capital,’” says Chief Niehus. “Every time we have the opportunity to extend a message about who we are as an organization, to offer insight to what we’re all about, and to reach out to the public, we are strengthening our bond with the community. Outreach is an important part of our community policing efforts.”

Chardon also provides a full-time school resource officer at the high school. Officer Mike Shaw, who was assigned to the schools after the shootings, is “part social worker, part police officer, and part teacher,” Niehus describes.

“He does a lot of bridge-building with children and young adults in the community, as well as the school staff.

“The School Resource Officer provides an opportunity for young people to get to know officers as people who care about them, so when the young person hears about police officers referred to in the media negatively, they know that is not representative of who we are or what we do,” Niehus continues. “Police officers are human beings first, with very ordinary sensitivities and capabilities, who take an oath to do a job; and on occasion, officers are called upon to contend with very unpredictable and dangerous situations.”

Another way the department is interacting with its citizens is through its bicycle patrol; six officers are trained, and one of the

department’s two bicycles was donated by the Chardon Square Association.

The sheriff’s office is also active in the community, offering self-defense training, K-9 demonstrations, crime prevention talks, meetings with parent groups, jail tours, and so on, McClelland says.

Seizing the opportunity to promote another program, the sheriff took a moment to emphasize the “Snap” concept, in which parents are encouraged to take a picture of their children when at a fair and other bustling places.

“You have an immediate picture with you on your cell phone of what your child looks like, what they’re dressed in that day,” he says. “Think of how valuable that could be should something happen.”

The office provides DARE instructors to 10 elementary schools, five middle schools, and six Amish schools.

Among Middlefield Police Department’s outreach programs are Shop with a Cop, food drives, and Fishing with Cops, along with more casual community interaction, such as having lunch with the kids in Middlefield’s four schools.

Many communities, such as Middlefield and Bainbridge, also offer a Citizens Academy.

“It is an eight-week program, and we instruct them on how we do our jobs and why we do our jobs, why we do things a certain way,” Bainbridge Chief Bokovitz explains. Classes cover topics such as report writing, hiring processes, and K-9 demonstrations. This fall, 32 people are taking the free class.

“At the completion of the class, everyone does a ride-along with an officer,” Bokovitz notes.

The Bainbridge department also offers school programs such as DARE, Safety Town, Shop with a Cop, unarmed self-defense classes, talks with senior groups about issues such as identity fraud, and Fill the cruiser for the USO.

Take a moment today to thank your local police department for a job well done! 🍷



*Police Chief Joe Tucholski*

# Focus on the Fall

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

Dr. Scott J. Hunt,  
Superintendent



The 2016-2017 school year is underway! The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time for students and families. I would be remiss if I didn't thank our transportation department for making certain that our students get to school and home safely every day. I would also like to thank our families for their patience and understanding as we worked through creating greater efficiency in our transportation service.



Although this summer presented some challenges, it also was quite rewarding. Cardinal High School has had the benefit of participating in the CRO (College Ready Ohio) grant. This grant provided us with the student iPads and rigorous training in the Trailblazer Teacher program. The training provided several teachers the opportunity to learn how to utilize the iPads with students and how to digitize their course content. In fact, Mr. Ben Clutter (Biology Teacher), was invited to present his work at a national conference in Colorado this summer. In addition, through our partnership with The Ohio State University via CRO, we were able to install a green screen at the high school. Students are already using that space to produce, edit, and post our morning announcements.

We continue to offer 30+ college credits through the CC+ (College Credit Plus) program. These credits are provided at Cardinal High School, and the courses are taught by our teachers. Members of the CMS staff also have been invited to present their learning and expertise in using Universal Design for Learning (UDL). UDL is a method teachers use to design and deliver high quality lessons that meet the needs of all students.

Over the next couple of months some of our Lake County colleagues will visit our middle school to see how we implement UDL. At JES and CIS our students continue to get the very best our teachers have to give as they focus on literacy and getting students to be great readers.

### Strategic Planning, Task Force, and November Levy

This school year is slightly different than the last few. I had to reduce staff this

spring in the midst of our ongoing budget concerns. In fact, I cut six teachers and two administrators in the Spring so that we could operate with a positive balance in the books. You will notice that those who were cut are NOT returning. The budget issue is real and will not be alleviated unless we pass the November levy.

The future of the schools and our students really do depend on the response from the community.

This year the district will focus on creating a strategic plan that will allow us to engage the community and invite you to the table to participate in the conversation. We hope to begin the process in October. If you are reading this and have an interest in participating, please contact me directly. Your voice will be necessary in designing the future of our schools. In addition, I will be creating a Task Force on School Operations. This group will conduct research and study our district in all areas of our operation. After answering some key questions the Task Force will make recommendations to the board.

We have many great things happening at Cardinal Schools for our students, and I hope you will continue to be part of our success!

**“The future of the schools and our students really do depend on the response from the community.”**

Please feel free to contact me by email or phone. I can be contacted via email [scott.hunt@cardinalschools.org](mailto:scott.hunt@cardinalschools.org) or in the office at 632-0261. Also, follow me on Twitter @DrSJHunt.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott J. Hunt  
Cardinal Superintendent

# Village of Middlefield

Where Families Grow Strong

## Middlefield Village Commercials Air During RIO Olympics

Millions of viewers across the country watched as Middlefield Village showcased its outstanding business and residential communities during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Leslie Gambosi- McCoy, Economic Development Director/Zoning Inspector, Middlefield Village, says the idea to air commercials during the Olympic Games originated with Mayor Ben Garlich. "It was Ben's idea to start the process of getting a commercial going. The video was produced by WKYC. I went along with the videographer to take important shots of the Village for messaging. We needed to convey our message in two, 15-second spots," Gambosi-McCoy explains.

"Our goal through this commercial was to make people across the U.S. aware of Middlefield Village and what it has to offer both residential and business residents," she adds.

The feedback received has been extremely positive. 🌿

## Community Shred Day

Grab your important paperwork that needs shredding and join us for Middlefield Village's Community Shred Day from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on October 21 behind the Police Station. 🌿



## Middlefield Recreation Department UPDATE



## What's Happening Right Now

Tackle football, cheerleading, soccer and volleyball are going on right now. Football games started the weekend of August 23rd. At these games the cheerleaders will cheer for the two football teams, Junior Varsity- ages 8-9, and Varsity- ages 10-12. The four soccer teams started playing games on September 8th and the season ends the end of October. Volleyball season concludes the end of Oct. The 5th and 6th grade teams will have a tournament on Oct. 29th at the Cardinal Middle School.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Basketball

Ages 4-12 years  
Cost: \$50-\$70  
Deadline is October 21

#### Basketball Cheerleading

Ages 4-12 years  
Cost: \$25 if using 2016 Football Cheer Uniform \$90-\$100  
*need uniform*

#### Wrestling

Grades 1st-6th  
Cost: \$65-\$75  
Deadline is October 21

#### Halloween Coloring Contest

Deadline to turn in the coloring page is October 24.

#### Home for the Holidays

#### Outdoor Decoration Contest

Middlefield Recreation will once again hold their home decoration contest, and this year there are two categories, Traditional and "Clark Griswold". Judging will be held on Wednesday, December 7. Residents and businesses should have their lights on by 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. for the judges.

#### Adult Coloring Contest

The adult coloring picture will be available to participants the end of November, and they will be due on December 21st. You will be able to access the picture on the Village website. 🌿

# A Look Back at Middlefield Village's **SUMMER FEST** **2016**

Hundreds of Middlefield residents enjoyed a day of fun at Middlefield Village's Annual Summer Fest celebration this summer. The day kicked off with a parade of more than 40 floats as well as other participants who greeted folks lining the sidewalk.



Once the parade concluded at Harrington Plaza, guests visited food and craft booths and tried their luck at a host of games and activities that included zip lines, mechanical bull ride, the famous rocket car, dunk tank, inflatable slides, speed pitch, and more.

**Hope to see all of you back next year!**



# Village of Middlefield

*Where Families Grow Strong*

## Middlefield Historical Society 2016 Festival of Trees

Middlefield Historical Society, 14979 South State Avenue, Middlefield, Ohio

Is it too early to think about the upcoming holiday season? We don't think so! In fact, we've already been hard at work planning for Middlefield Historical Society's biennial Festival of Trees, hoping to make it even bigger and better than past events!

Visiting the Festival of Trees has already become a treasured holiday tradition for many families in the community, so this year we are expanding to two weekends to welcome visitors during the busy holiday season. The Festival of Trees is held at Middlefield Historical Society's historic Century Inn, conveniently located in downtown Middlefield. Admission is FREE of charge to all visitors; a donation box and 50/50 raffle will help to defray expenses and advertising costs. All three levels of the Century Inn will be ablaze with beautiful lights and festive holiday décor for the first two weekends in December.

Middlefield Historical Society once again invites local businesses, industries, civic/school organizations, churches and individuals to participate in creating our enchanted forest. It's as simple as bringing an artificial tree and decorating it as you wish. We have had an amazing variety of beautiful and creative trees in the past and are looking forward to more fresh, new ideas this year. Keep in mind that this event is an opportunity for free publicity for your business/group in a fun atmosphere.

If interested in participating, please let us know prior to Monday, October 31 by contacting any of the committee members listed below. Set-up days will be Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 28, 29 and 30, with tear-down after the event on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 12, 13 and 14. Contact Kathie Jackson at 440-487-2511 with your date selection. (If absolutely necessary, we may be able to arrange for different times/dates.)

### 2016 Festival of Trees Open Hours:

Friday, December 2 & 9 | 4 - 8 pm

Saturdays, December 3 & 10 | 12 noon - 6 pm

Sundays, December 4 & 11 | 12 noon - 6 pm

**Please consider joining us for this  
festive community tradition!**

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

[www.middlefieldohio.com](http://www.middlefieldohio.com)

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

[www.middlefieldmeansbusiness.com](http://www.middlefieldmeansbusiness.com)

