

By Mayor Ben Garlich

The Christmas and, New Year's holidays are behind us. I hope, everyone had time to enjoy family even though it seems to be an extremely busy month. I was again impressed with the generosity of our community. In December, our Police Department held it's Fill-A-Cruiser event in partnership with SS Edward Lucy Parish to provide holiday meals for those in need. The event was again very successful due to the residents that so generously donate food and money in the spirit of the season. It never ceases to amaze me on the variety of people that donate from young to old and a very generous Amish community. Thanks to all the volunteers from SS Edward Lucy Parish and the Middlefield police and councilmen that make this event successful.

Shop With Cops is also held in December where donated money is given to select area children to ensure their families have an enjoyable Christmas that would not happen without our assistance. The entire Police Department along with a host of WalMart employees, Village officials and their wives make this annual event successful. The Chamber held its first annual Grinch event with a goal of collecting toys for donation for critically and terminally ill children visiting Santa's Hide-A-Way Hollow. The event was a huge success thanks to all the volunteers, businesses and individuals that donated. In December, staff at Mary Yoder's Amish kitchen host an annual raffle raising money to support our local school and our Shop With Cops program. This event is championed by Tina Rasmussen. Tina focuses on acquiring donations 364 days a year. The event is so successful next year, it will be moving to a larger facility. Her dedication and organization of this event is deeply appreciated. Thanks to all that donate their resources of time and money to add value to our community and those less fortunate.

We live in a great community!

I hope most of you are aware of our new Village slogan and initiative Middlefield Means Health. We have partnered with University Hospitals to provide a 12-month affordable program that will help all participants improve their health. The event is held the second Thursday of every month at the Middlefield Library. In attendance are multiple experts to conduct medical tests and provide advice to assist in improving your general health. Our first event was in Jan. 11, and I can personally say, I benefited as did all in attendance. I urge each of you to attend this free event that will track your progress and help improve your quality of life. February is heart health month and I hope to see you there. Please visit our website for additional details. 2017 was a great year and I expect 2018 to be even better.

Be informed, be involved, shop Middlefield and visit middlefieldohio.com.