

November has come in with some authority. I was mowing my lawn and raking leaves on Sunday the 10th and using my snow blower and shovel the following day, the 11th. I prefer using the mower and rake, but it's not in my control. The Village employees observed Veteran's Day which prevented leaf pickup before the snow, but the service crew did work to ensure the streets and sidewalks were safe and maintained for Tuesday-morning motorists and pedestrians. I've learned, as has the service crew, it snows heaviest on holidays, weekends and late evening, seemingly to make the work schedule as inconvenient as possible. We all realize that this is part of the job and a way of life in northeast Ohio. I'm glad we have such a dedicated crew.

I attended a Middlefield Chamber of Commerce luncheon on the Tuesday following Veteran's Day. The lunch was held at our local Middlefield VFW Post 9678. A remarkable story, recounting some experiences of his years of service and a recent trip to Washington DC, was given by veteran, Jim Warren. His pride was obvious during the presentation, as was the value he placed on relationships developed during the years he was defending and serving this great country. Clearly, these experiences were life changing and will never be forgotten. I am so glad there seems to be a revival of respect and appreciation for all those who served and provided the freedom we should never take for granted. Thank you, Veterans, for your service.

The Village has had multiple meetings this month preparing projects to bid for completion next summer. We have many more, including side streets, failing catch basins requiring repair, and drilling additional water wells. We are prioritizing to ensure we repair those areas in the poorest condition. I look forward to the day when we can confidently say our infrastructure is top notch. With your continued support and patience, that day will come.

I am pleased that I have the privilege of being your Mayor for the next four years. I commit to working every day to ensure this Village is moving in a positive direction, and we will all see our quality of life improving. There are business expansions slated for next year as Chem Tech remains bullish expanding their facility on the southeast corner of Madison Road. Harrington Square is enlarging the current facility occupied by US Bank and MyoFit with a few new tenants, and ODOT is slated to construct their new facility on Tare Creek. We are blessed to have a community where people have chosen to invest, creating more amenities and employment.

Be informed, be involved, exercise your right to vote, shop Middlefield and visit [www.middlefieldohio.com](http://www.middlefieldohio.com).

*Ben Garlich*

Mayor, Village of Middlefield