

# Village of Middlefield

Issue 6 | November 2013



## Where Families Grow Strong

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## Letter from the Mayor



Ben Garlich,  
Mayor, Village  
of Middlefield

Another year is coming to an end. I am amazed at how quickly these past 2 years have gone. I am pleased with the progress of our Village, only made possible by many committed, involved people. Many goals have been reached, but even more interesting is the fact that we have set many new goals to achieve. These objectives are proof that great people with focused dedication produce great results. The Village mottos we adopted last year – “Middlefield Means Business” and “Where Families Grow Strong” – are more than just slogans. These mottos are the foundation for our actions and decisions.

The Village website, which was developed to aid in creating government transparency and as an informative tool for our residents, recently received national recognition. The amount of traffic on the website continues to increase, which depicts the active participation of Village residents. The more involved we all are, the stronger and more vibrant our community becomes. Please continue to visit us at [www.middlefieldohio.com](http://www.middlefieldohio.com). Recently, we created a promotional video illustrating the attributes of our Village. It featured local business executives and residents who already know the vitality of the area; they readily shared this knowledge with others.

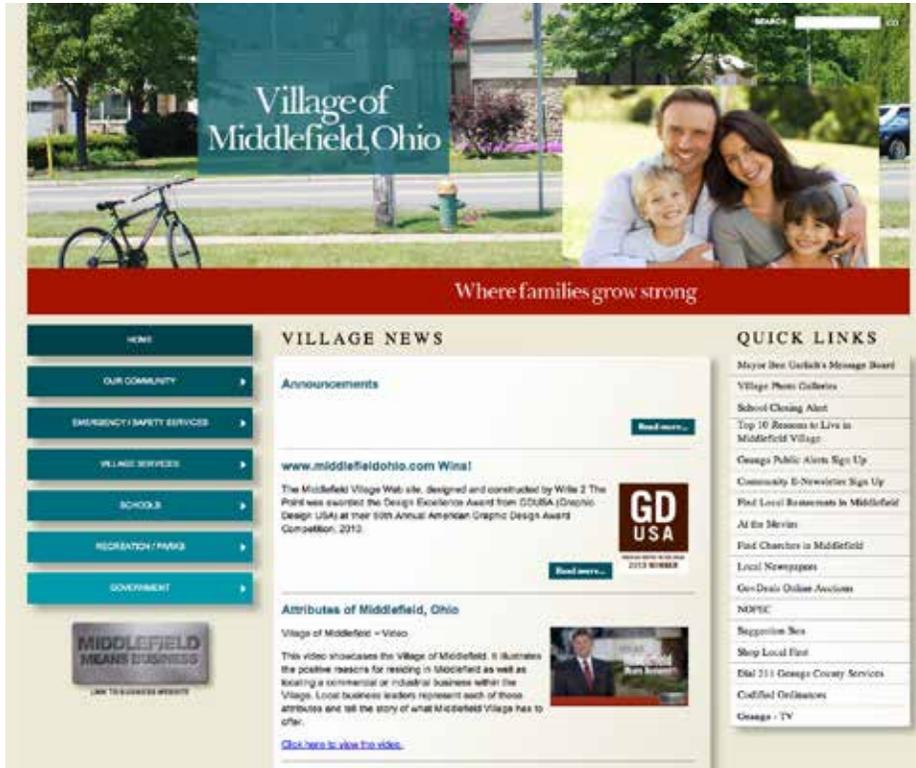
We are witnessing a tremendous increase in local business involvement, and in addition, we've seen new construction in both the business and residential sectors that has not been realized in years. I expect this upward trend to continue. Next year, plans are in place for additional construction in the industrial sector, as well as commercial and residential. People are investing and moving to our community as we continue to show value. This activity is due to proactive actions by people in positions to make a difference and those who possess a burning desire to improve our community. There are multiple projects in process, which will change and improve the physical appearance of our Village. Watch for these improvements in 2014.

The Village social event calendar continues to expand as we foster a sense of community. An array of additional events has been added, from Summer Fest to the Farmers Market, and this year will include our first annual Christmas Tree Lighting on the 29th of November. The downtown decorations this year will be more elaborate than ever. I hope to see everyone at the Tree Lighting and I encourage each of you to shop local to ensure we retain and expand the amenities and services we currently enjoy.

I look forward to 2014 with energy and excitement and I want to thank you for the privilege of being your Mayor for the past 2 years. My wife, Karen, and I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Sincerely,  
*Ben Garlich*  
Mayor

## Middlefield Website Receives National Recognition



*“This website uniquely features a business hub within the main website to attract additional business and industry to the Village.”*

Margie Wilber, Write 2 the Point



Margie Wilber, Write 2 the Point, and Ben Garlich, Mayor, Village of Middlefield, proudly display design award for Village of Middlefield website.

Middlefield Village recently won the 2013 American Graphic Design Award of Excellence for their newly constructed website. The website was designed and built by Write 2 the Point, a full-service marketing and public relations firm based in Geauga County. Write 2 the Point also received an award of Excellence for Geauga Business Magazine.

“I was privileged to work with Mayor Ben Garlich and the Middlefield Economic Development Committee to design and build a website that addresses the needs of residents as well as the business community. This website uniquely features a business hub within the main website to attract additional business and industry to the Village. I have to commend my excellent team of writers, designers and programmers, particularly Ellen Seguin, lead designer on both projects, and Rachel Krage, website managing director,” says Margie Wilber, president/owner of Write 2 the Point. “Mayor Garlich and the EDC deserve a great deal of credit for their direction, creative input and editing as this whale of a project took shape.”

USA Graphic Design has sponsored design competitions for more than five decades to spotlight areas of excellence and opportunity for creative professionals.

GDUSA’s American Graphic Design Awards is the biggest and broadest of these, open to everyone in the community: advertising agencies, graphic design firms, corporations, associations, universities, government publishers and more. It honors outstanding work of all kinds across all media. 🌟

## Halloween Costume Contest

On Oct. 31, the Middlefield Fire Department sponsored a Halloween Costume Contest. The winners were (l-r): (pic 1) ages 0-5, Deklan Brown, Taylor Christian and Dominic Joseph; (pic 2) grades first - sixth Josh Martin, Olivia Misterka and Rylee Wernsmann; (pic 4) grades seventh - 12th Kaylee Hope, Alyssa Sanders and Regan Bell; and (pic 3) adults Chris Coggins, Justy MacLeary and Halee Minick. Judges were (pic 5) Village Council member Carl Hornung, Mrs. Karen Garlich and Middlefield Mayor Ben Garlich. Se more photos [www.middlefieldohio.com](http://www.middlefieldohio.com).



## Parade

On Thursday, Oct. 31, several hundred students from **Cardinal Intermediate** and **Jordak schools** dressed in Halloween costumes and paraded through Briar Hill Health Care Residence.





## Holiday Trees at Middlefield Library



Competitive crafters are invited to participate in GCPL's annual holiday decorating contest and silent auction fundraisers. Crafters may pick up small artificial trees, take them home to decorate, and then return them to the library to be displayed, judged and auctioned. The judging, which is a popular vote, will be Dec. 1.

Don't have time to craft a tree? That's okay, you can bid to win someone else's tree. If your bid wins, you get to choose between displaying the piece yourself or giving it away as a holiday gift. Tough decision!

In Middlefield, sales benefit the Friends of the Library and the Middlefield Historical Society. For more details, contact the Middlefield Library at 16167 East High St. 44062 at 440.632.1961. 🌿

## Citizen's Police Academy

The Middlefield Police Department is organizing a Citizen's Police Academy. The nine- or 10-week course will be held at the police station and/or one of the schools one evening each week. Qualifying residents/students will study topics such as the criminal process; traffic stops; investigations; use of force; patrol responsibilities; domestic violence; theft; disorderly conduct and more.

"Offering this kind of training to Middlefield Village residents will enhance communication and understanding between the community and police, as well as inform residents of many aspects of police policies and procedures," says Officer Brandon Gray, recently appointed by Chief Arnold E. Stanko to spearhead the project.

"We should have it up and running by January" Gray adds.

The local police force expects that graduates from this academy will then be trained and willing to volunteer to help with Village programs and activities and be available when safety issues arise. More information will be accessible later this year on the MPD page of the [www.middlefieldohio.com](http://www.middlefieldohio.com) website. 🌿

## Cardinal Athletic Boosters Seventh Annual Chinese Auction



\$13, 606.23 was raised, and the boosters would like to thank the local and national businesses, individuals and Cardinal families who donated prizes, the local media, those who worked on Saturday and all who attended the event. 🌿



## Order Your Christmas Cookies Today

Middlefield Historical Society's Christmas Cookie Sale is now underway. A one-pound box of attractive, assorted, delicious holiday goodies costs only \$6.50 per box. Advance orders only, and quantities are limited so call early to avoid disappointment. Phone your orders to Gilberta Town 440.632.1025 or Betty Roose 440.632.0459. Both have answering machines if not available. When leaving a message state your name, daytime phone number, and number of boxes wanted. Pick-ups are scheduled for Friday, Dec. 13, at the Historical Society's lower level between 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Historical Society address: 14979 S State Ave, Middlefield, OH 44062

Payment to be made at time of pick-up. 🌿

# Village of Middlefield

*Where Families Grow Strong*



Thousands of Christmas lights were installed in downtown Middlefield on Nov. 3 by the Middlefield Activities Committee, with help from Village Council and Committee members, Phillip and Linda Smallwood of Grace Tree Service and Middlefield residents under the direction of Dave Kiraly.



## Middlefield Village to LIGHT UP This Christmas Season

The M.A.C. (Middlefield Activities Committee) is getting into the holiday spirit. Throughout November, M.A.C. members will be seen at the main intersection of town stringing the trees with a multitude of light bulbs for Middlefield's Tree Lighting Ceremony. The ceremony will take place at the corner of Rt. 608 and Rt. 87 at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 29.

The next planned M.A.C. activity is "Snack with Santa." The children of Middlefield are invited for juice and donuts in the community room above the Middlefield Fire Station on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. - noon. Rumor has it that Santa will be there to greet you! Have your picture taken with Santa and make a craft to take home with you.

The M.A.C. consists of residents of Middlefield including Karen G., Dick S., Mike D., Nick C., Wendy K., April., Sue B., Billie W., Kathy D., Beth D., Vanessa T., and Theresa M. The M.A.C. plans a variety of village activities throughout the year including the parade and entertainment of the annual Summer Fest. If you would like to get involved with the M.A.C., meetings are most Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Middlefield Village Hall. If you have any questions about getting involved, call the village hall at 440-632-5248 and leave your name and number so that a committee member can contact you with more information. 🌿



## Incumbents Rewarded with Re-Election to Middlefield Village Council

Voters expressed their approval for a job well done with the re-election of the four incumbents to Middlefield Village Council on Nov. 5. Congratulations to **Bill Blue, Scott E. Klein, Rick Seyer and Ron Wiech.**

Council members Carl Hofstetter and Carl Hornung are not up for re-election until 2015. 🌿



## Land Dedication for New Church Building

On Sunday, Oct. 27, the congregation of the First United Methodist Church in Middlefield and several community officials and residents dedicated 15 acres of land at 14715 Old State Road, Middlefield.

This land will be the site for a new church. The cross led the way as the congregation processed from the current building through the center of Middlefield to the

new site. The cross was placed in the soil and the ground was consecrated. The church will be built within walking distance for students in the local schools and adjacent to Mary Yoder's Restaurant. In 2009, the congregation felt a nudge that God was calling it to do something but recognized that the present facility limited expanding current and initiating new ministries. Building an addition to

the current building was not possible, so the search for a new location began. Construction on the building is not yet scheduled. In the meantime, the land will serve as the site for new ministries. Current possibilities are an off-site worship service, a community garden, and recreation fields. Rev. Ed Peterson is in his ninth year as pastor of First United Methodist Church. 🌿



## Sperry Lane Roadwork Nears Completion

In late March 2013, work began on a massive undertaking to improve Sperry Lane in Middlefield Village. To date, an 8-inch water line, 12-inch and 15-inch storm sewer and catch basins, 8-inch sanitary sewer and manholes, new sidewalks and drive aprons, and curb drains have been installed, along with all new connections to houses (water and sewer).

Yet to be completed is to bring manholes to grade level and fill topsoil in crosswalk stop bars. Workers will also be installing sidewalks to the Boy Scout Lodge and walk path at Mineral Lake for all to enjoy.

Charlie Ehrhart, streets and utilities director for the Village of Middlefield, greatly appreciates the patience of local residents. "People on Sperry Lane put up with a lot but were always pleasant to work with, as was The Fortuna Construction company" says Ehrhart. "To me, this was a street of all seasons – beginning with the last snowflakes of spring, through the hot days of summer, and colorful foliage of fall with the first snowfall already occurring. I enjoyed the entire project." 🌿



Sperry Lane Project photos from start to finish are on [www.middlefieldohio.com](http://www.middlefieldohio.com).



## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Middlefield Recreation Department is sponsoring the annual "Home for the Holidays" home-decorating contest again this year.

The contest is open to all Village of Middlefield residents at no charge. The deadline to register is Monday Dec. 9 and judging will take place on Thursday, Dec. 12. Winners will be announced on Tuesday, Dec. 17. Winners will be showcased on the Middlefield Village website and receive prizes.

For more information, call the Middlefield Recreation Department (MRD) at 440.632.5248 or download a registration form at [www.middlefieldohio.com](http://www.middlefieldohio.com). The MRD is located at the Village of Middlefield Municipal Center, 14860 N. State Ave. 🌿

For up-to-the minute news on school closings, local weather, 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)

**MIDDLEFIELD  
MEANS BUSINESS**