

By Mayor Ben Garlich

The busy holidays are behind us and I am back to a more normal routine. Scheduled meetings have resumed and all committees are back to business.

At our last council meeting, Kirby Date (CSU) presented a completed market analysis for the Village of Middlefield. The delivery time was perfect, as the Economic Development Committee is beginning the interviewing process for a Middlefield Village Director of Economic Development. This analysis will be a very useful tool as this individual will proactively pursue business development and job creation that will complement our Village.

To date, we've been fortunate; we have identified people with the passion necessary to promote Middlefield. These individuals Margie Wilber (owner of Write to the Point) and Kirby Date (CSU) provided exceptional value. Their efforts exceeded our expectations and the money was well invested.

This April, we will be transitioning to a new Chief of Police. Chief Arnold Stanko was hired in April of 2012 with the understanding he would actively hold the position as chief for two years and then be retained as a consultant for a third year. He was hired to take the department to the next level, get people trained, and bring needed policy and organization to the department. Chief Stanko has accomplished and exceeded these goals, setting high standards for our next chief. It was also the understanding, if things progressed as planned at the end of the two-year period Lieutenant Joe Tucholski would assume the position of chief. The lieutenant has completed extensive training in PELK and FBI school and is well prepared to assume his new role in April.

We have added two new members to our village planning and zoning board. Edna Davis who has served in many governmental positions but most recently on our Board of Zoning Appeals and Nick Giardina, a longtime resident, who owns a business in our Village. I look forward to working with them this year. I want to thank Dan MacRaild for his past service and wish him the best. The other open position was created by the passing of Dennis Parton. Dennis was a tremendous asset to this Village not only with his service on the Zoning Board but the many other events he volunteered hours of time that benefitted others. I considered Dennis a colleague and a friend and will miss him.

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