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Our Recreation Department had its annual Easter Egg Hunt this past Saturday. The weather was beautiful, lots of children attended and they had great prizes and candy for everyone. It was nice to be outside without a jacket and watching happy children enjoy themselves. I am thankful the Village has the financial ability to provide the staff and prizes for free events for Village and surrounding area residents.

Last Thursday, in our monthly council meeting, I had the privilege to make our new Police Chief official. Chief Tucholski was sworn in; and as I stated before, this was the plan that was established when I became mayor in 2012. Each chief has a different style, and I know Joe will bring a different approach to being engaged with the community. Chief Tucholski has lived in this area his entire life, his children attend Cardinal Schools and his wife Vanessa is involved in many community committees. I look forward to working with Chief Tucholski during my tenure as Village mayor.

We had a special Planning and Zoning meeting this past Tuesday to give approvals for Chem Tech to start construction of their new facility on the southeast corner of our Village. They will be building on the newly annexed property that was incorporated into our Village last year. I want to again express my appreciation to a forward thinking School Board and Township Trustees whose cooperation made this project a reality. The infrastructure in the entire site will also start in the near future making the next expansion less labor intensive.

Village Administrator Dan Weir and I met with staff from the state auditor's office staff last Thursday to review our implementation of the recommendations from the operational audit conducted in 2012. Through the cooperation of Village staff, the support of council, we implemented 18 of the 23 cost-saving and efficiency-generating suggestions provided by the audit. I will be giving a recap of this activity to Council at our May meeting.

The Village is in final discussions with a new director of Economic Development. If an agreement is made we expect the individual to be on board with the Village in early May. This position is a necessity and it is our job to ensure the position brings value to the economic improvement of our Village.

As always I encourage you to shop local, be informed, be involved and visit www.middlefieldohio.com.