

July, 2014

By Mayor Ben Garlich

I was a spectator at the Aurora, Fourth of July parade. My daughter recently moved there and my granddaughter was a participant in the parade. I observed the excitement of the children watching the parade and saw them react to each piece of candy they were able to grab as if it were an ounce of gold. I spoke to adults who have lived in the area about how much this parade, and the festivities that followed, had become their family tradition, and they attend every year. I saw grandparents with their children and grandchildren enjoying the event as a family. Many were taking pictures as you would on a family vacation. It was a great time to visit with friends you don't see frequently. I felt their sense of community which I certainly admired.



I hope the residents of Middlefield and the surrounding area view the Summer Fest in the same regard. It is a great time to come together as a community and enjoy the day. This event is scheduled for July 26 and I know firsthand how hard the M.A.C. (Middlefield Activities Committee) works to make this day a success. The parade starts at 1 p.m. and many quality events are scheduled for the remainder of the day which will end with fireworks. Come and enjoy good food, good friends and have a pleasurable day.

The Grand Marshals this year are Officer Erin Thomas and Sergeant Brandon Savage whom are both very deserving of this recognition. Hope to see you there.

Leslie Gambosi, economic development director, has hit the ground running. She is acclimated to Middlefield and is beginning a very proactive approach to building the economic base of this Village.

Construction has begun on the new facility next to Russell's Funeral Home. I expect Chem Tech to be moving dirt within a few weeks, and the planning commission has been in conversation with Briar Hill Health Care about a sizeable expansion. We've seen two empty retail spaces filled this last month which is encouraging. This fall, we will be formulating a cooperative effort with the schools to begin an apprenticeship program to support the skilled trade requirements of local industry. Potentially, this effort, when executed correctly, will benefit student, school and business.

I encourage you to be informed, be involved, shop local and visit [www.middlefieldohio.com](http://www.middlefieldohio.com).