

Friday Nov. 29 was the first annual Christmas Tree Lighting. If you missed the event, you missed a great time. The Cardinares sang to set the mood for the event, and the holiday season. The weather was chilly but beautiful. The crowd was great, in a festive mood and it was nice to see friends and neighbors. The hot chocolate was hot and the cookies were huge. This will be an annual event, and I hope you will plan to attend next year. We had a surprise visitor from the North Pole as Santa also attended, unannounced. The town is decorated from east to west and north to south and will remain lit through the Christmas season. All four corners of the downtown area look very festive; I love the look and hope you enjoy it as well. It required lots of work and the help of many, but well worth the effort for it improves the holiday environment in our Village. I again urge you to shop local this Christmas season and support the retailers that have invested in our Village to make it a better place to live.

The weekend of Dec. 7 will again be a busy weekend in Middlefield with Fill-A-Cruiser (at Walmart and Save A Lot) and Snacks With Santa (at the Fire Station, 10 a.m.). This past Fill-A-Cruiser event exceeded any priors with far more donated food and money. Your generosity is amazing and appreciated by those who benefit. I encourage you to bring your children or grandchildren to Snacks With Santa, as I guarantee it will be a fun experience.

This has been a very busy year and has gone by quickly. All elected officials and volunteers have been productive and have set their course for 2014. I expect continued improvement as we move forward in the next year.

As this year comes to an end, I hope we all set aside time to spend with friends and family and are thankful for all the positive things we have in our lives. We are a fortunate society and it is our responsibility to maintain and improve our quality of life.

I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and look forward to 2014.

Be involved, be informed, shop local and visit us at www.middlefieldohio.com.