

Middlefield Village Update

By Mayor Ben Garlich

During the first weekend of November, I enjoyed participating and hearing about residents giving back to our community. Saturday morning, Council Member Carl Hornung and I spent time with members of our Police Department collecting food and money for the “Fill A Cruiser” food drive. This is a program coordinated with St Lucy’s Parish to distribute food to 64 families in the area for Thanksgiving. It was great to see the donations from many, hear why they were giving and experience their generosity. I was also extremely appreciative of our officers that donated their time for this worthy cause. In the



afternoon I stopped at St Lucy’s and visited with a group of volunteers that were busy cutting out angels for the Christmas gift distribution while they were waiting for the food and money, collected from “Fill A Cruiser” event, to arrive. I could hear, in their conversation, the excitement and passion they had for both of these programs and the satisfaction they derived by helping others. Later in the afternoon, I stopped and spoke to a few high school students that were holding signs and interacting with passing motorists for promotion of the upcoming Cardinal Levy renewal. If you remember the weather on Saturday, Nov. 3 was cold and rainy. The students, I spoke with, had been out there for over 8 hours and were still excited about their mission. I heard and felt the same pride I had seen when I visited the volunteers at St Lucy’s. Earlier that week, I received a call from our ambulance provider, Community Care, asking if I knew of any residents without power that needed assistance with hot meals or food in general. We were fortunate that Storm Sandy did not inflict much damage in our immediate area, but it was awesome that the support was available. Village Council, in their meeting on Nov. 1 laid out a plan to construct a process which will assist all owner-occupied dwellings in the Village that received citations during the “Neat Streets Program”. I stated before, that I felt the program was needed but also realize the financial hardship this can create and want the Village to partner with all those residents in making the requested repairs affordable and achievable. The plan will be finalized and publicized for participation by all impacted residents.

It is the Thanksgiving season, and I have a lot to be thankful for. We live in a great community, enjoy freedoms here, not experienced by many around the world and I continue to be dedicated along with others to make our Village the best it can be.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.