

By Mayor Ben Garlich

We just celebrated Labor Day, which in many ways marks the end of summer. Pools close, family vacations are wrapping up and school gets back into full schedule.

In addition to these events, we celebrate American labor, that since our country's inception, has made us the greatest nation in the world. The creativity and drive that we possess makes us the leader and a nation where people flock to, so they can fulfill their dreams.

Due to the dream of many, we enjoy a society where we have amenities and a lifestyle that many in the world envy. I look at our community and see that process in action. I was on council many years ago when Richard Moody came to a meeting expressing his desire to put a facility in our Village. I remember his story of starting to make cabinets in his garage and it has developed to what we see today, KraftMaid with three factories in this area employing thousands. Middlefield Village is home to six of the 13 largest employers in Geauga County and for this I am thankful.

We have Gold Key Processing celebrating being one of the 100 of the best companies to work for two years in a row. We have Chem Technologies continuing to grow and are currently constructing a new facility on the recently annexed Village property. O'Reilly Auto Parts' new building is under construction. All of these expansions will create additional employment making our area stronger.

Cardinal Schools are actively in pursuit of improvement. In addition to the physical improvements, many services have been enhanced and I look forward to their effort to continue on this track. A quality educational system is so critical to the vitality of the area. In addition, the Huskie Nation Foundation is working hard to secure funds for an upgrade on the stadium facilities which when successful will be another area of pride.

In this soft economy, what we are seeing is remarkable. We, as local government, are dedicated to supporting and working in partnership to ensure continued improvement of our Village and the surrounding area. I feel the last two year's efforts are beginning to get traction and the momentum will continue.

Please be informed, be involved, shop local and visit [www.middlefieldohio.com](http://www.middlefieldohio.com).