

# Village of Middlefield Update

By Mayor Ben Garlich

The holiday season is here and a busy year seems to get busier. I hope we all pause and realize this is the time of year to give thanks, and take special time to enjoy and show appreciation to family and friends that we may have not provided proper attention to, during the year.

I had the privilege of spending last weekend with our police officers while they held their annual Fill-A-Cruiser event. Again, the generosity of people was amazing. I've not heard the collection results but it seemed to me this was the largest collection in the years I've been participating. It was great to see the interaction of the officers with the residents and the positive feedback they received along with the generous giving. I am thankful for their desire to help those less fortunate. I appreciate Walmart and Save-A-Lot for providing the excellent venue for collection.

I had the opportunity to speak on Veterans Day at the beautiful Briar Hill Health Care facility. A number of seniors in the audience were members or had husbands or sons that served in the military. You could see their pride when they spoke about their connection to those who served. I am also proud of those individuals and thankful for the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy due to the efforts of those proud and dedicated veterans.

The M.A.C. (Middlefield Activities Committee) has their second annual Christmas tree and downtown lighting ceremony scheduled for Nov. 28. The Village service crew has been busy between snow and ice storms ensuring all lights are working and the tree will be placed in the mini park. The Cardinaires will be singing carols as well, and University Hospitals will be providing refreshments. Last year, it was great to see all those in attendance and provide an opportunity to see neighbors and wish them a great holiday season.

I encourage you as you make your Christmas list to fulfill that list by shopping local. I am thankful for our community spirit and amenities.

On a personal note, my 90-year-old mother came and spent the day in Middlefield. She drove herself here from the Boardman area. (Thank goodness, at her age, she came the day before we got the winter blast.) She lived in the area 25 years ago and has been here since but not for an entire day. She was amazed at how the town had changed and the progress and development that our community has experienced. I assured her I felt fortunate to be a mayor of a village that is still progressing and not declining. I am thankful for family and her positive support. I hope I have her genes.

I hope all of you have a happy Thanksgiving and have much to be thankful for. I encourage you to be informed, be involved, shop local and visit [www.middlefieldohio.com](http://www.middlefieldohio.com).