

As election day approaches, I encourage you to participate and be aware of the issues that are presented on the ballot. I think this November there are a few issues on the ballot that will have significant impact on our society. Please cast your vote on Nov. 3 and be a part of keeping our community, state and country strong and free.

I attended and participated in a few events this month which I found uplifting and exciting. It has been many years since I've had children at home requiring me to be an active parent. I recently attended a full day of football sponsored by our Recreation Department and was so impressed with the amount of engaged parents both in the stands and parents that were involved with coaching and staffing the support positions of the game. The healthy support of the parents, the energy of the kids playing, and the team and character skills they were building, was impressive. Thanks to all that play such an important role in building the character of our youth.

Geauga Growth Partnership (GGP) also organized an event that involved the eighth-grade students from Cardinal as well as the students from Hershey Montessori in Huntsburg. One hundred seven students toured the facilities and heard presentations from employees at Gold Key and Dillen Products. The purpose was to introduce and make aware the local manufacturing employment opportunities. They were also served lunch at the Middlefield Fire Station and provided tours of the Fire and Police Departments as well as shown employment opportunities in the safety services field. I think the students had a great day and hopefully it will provide direction and goals as they start planning their futures. They were extremely attentive and engaged.

These types of activities promote our Village goal "Where Families Grow Strong". I hope all adults we take every opportunity to impact the lives of our youth in these all-important character building years. I know the success of our country is based upon the strengthening of the family unit.

I was privileged to recently present a State of the Village address at Mary Yoder's Amish Kitchen for the Middlefield Chamber of Commerce. I want to thank the Chamber for the invitation, Mary Yoder's for the facility and all those who took time to attend. We are making progress as a Village and expect to continue that progress in the coming years with the help and support of the community.

Please be informed, be involved, shop Middlefield and visit www.middlefieldohio.com.