

Judith Gilleland, City Manager of Middletown, Ohio, has already had an outstanding 30 year career in Ohio city government beginning in Tipp City, then Lebanon, Centerville, Pickerington and now Middletown. We are glad she has chosen our city of almost 50,000 to make her home. She was selected for the Middletown position based on her past successes but she has gone far beyond expectations with her creativity and leadership skills.

Judy is a collaborative person, proactive, caring and always willing to let others take the credit for the successes. She is also very willing to stick her neck out and take a risk when the end result is something good for her city. Instead of putting all her eggs in one basket, we like to say she had a basket with many eggs, each representing a piece to the holistic approach of improving her city.

Most City Managers would be glad to have accomplished one major project in a career. Judy has already accomplished four major projects and many lesser projects in just five years while in Middletown.

Her ability to create partnerships for the benefit of the city is outstanding. For example:

- The Pendleton Art Center now in downtown Middletown is a home for nearly 80 artists and a major First Friday event which brings thousands of guests to town every month as well as adding several independent businesses to the downtown area. This collaboration with the Verdin Company in Cincinnati, several Middletown area artists, funding sources, and supporters is now an attraction which is a cornerstone of the downtown area. Other businesses and groups have joined the First Friday program to increase its value and attractiveness.
- Cincinnati State has opened the first Community College in Butler County also in Middletown's downtown and is well above expected enrollment in just their first year. Judy spearheaded arrangements, with the support of city staff and City Council, to buy and make available unused buildings in downtown Middletown, arranged for financing, solved parking issues and generally made Middletown a comfortable home for Cincinnati State and its students. Other support businesses are beginning to gather in that area as well.
- The Greentree Health Academy on the campus of Atrium Medical Center is a partnership among Cincinnati State, Warren County Career Center and the City of Middletown. This facility is now a thriving educational center for medical careers and serves as a state-wide model.
- A first-of-its-kind-in-Ohio partnership will bring the Middletown City Schools administration offices into the Middletown City Building beginning July 2013. The school system was badly in need of better office spaces. The City had unused office space. By moving City offices to the lower three floors of the City Building and freeing space for the schools on the entire fourth floor, sharing public meeting spaces and collaborating on building upgrades to benefit both groups, the expectations are that both tax-supported entities will benefit for the good of the total community. Other joint efforts are already been discussed between the two.
- The Community Revitalization component of her holistic approach is making great improvements in the housing stock and neighborhoods of Middletown.

And, never think this lady is all work and no play. A holiday video she produced with staff members singing a parody of the song "My Girl" became very popular. "My Town" was such a hit, it went "viral" all over the US and even won a national award.

Because of her outstanding and positive work ethic, her staff members are also much more positive under her leadership and Middletown is on the move. Of course, we know that major projects and initiatives cannot occur solely at the hand of the City Manager. Our City Manager stands as a team with her staff, the Mayor and City Council.

By the time Judy retires, she will have her basket full of eggs and will have not just an omelet but a full-fledged soufflé.