

# Middlefield Banc Corp.

## DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN

### 502,490 COMMON SHARES

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Middlefield Banc Corp. is offering to holders of its common stock the opportunity to invest cash dividends and optional cash payments in additional shares of Middlefield common stock under the Dividend Reinvestment Plan. Any holder of record of Middlefield common stock is eligible to participate in the Plan. A participant in the Plan may purchase common stock by –

- reinvesting cash dividends on all shares of Middlefield common stock held by the participant
- reinvesting at least 10% of the cash dividends on the shares held by the participant, while continuing to receive cash dividends on the remainder
- making optional cash payments of at least \$50 each, up to \$50,000 annually

Participants will not pay brokerage commissions or fees for purchases of common stock under the Plan. Middlefield Banc Corp. bears the cost of administering the Plan.

Middlefield Banc Corp. common stock purchased under the Plan may be purchased from Middlefield, or on the open market, or otherwise from sources other than Middlefield. For shares purchased from Middlefield directly, the purchase price per share will be the average closing price over the three trading days immediately preceding the date of purchase. For shares purchased on the open market or from sources other than Middlefield, the purchase price will be the weighted average of the prices paid for the shares in all such purchases made on the applicable Investment Date (as defined in Question 10 of this prospectus).

Our common stock trades in the over-the-counter market under the ticker symbol “MBCN.” On August 20, 2012 the last reported sale price of our common stock was \$22.95. Our principal executive offices are located at 15985 East High Street, Middlefield, Ohio.

**The Middlefield Banc Corp. common stock offered hereby is not the obligation of or guaranteed or endorsed by any bank. It does not constitute a bank account or deposit. It is not Federally insured or protected by the U.S. Government, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve Board, or any other governmental agency.**

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**Investment in Middlefield Banc Corp. common stock involves investment risks, including the possible loss of principal. Before investing in our common stock you should read carefully the information set forth under the heading “[Risk Factors](#),” which appears on page 2, as well as the risk factors described in our Securities and Exchange Commission filings, including our annual report on Form 10-K.**

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. A representation to the contrary would be a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is August 23, 2012

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## **ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

Please read this prospectus carefully. We recommend that if you purchase securities you keep this prospectus with your permanent investment records. This prospectus contains important investment information about the Plan.

You should rely solely on the information provided in this prospectus, including the information incorporated by reference. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not offering the securities in any state or jurisdiction in which the offer is prohibited. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date hereof or such other dates as are stated herein or as of the respective dates of any documents or other information incorporated herein by reference. Our business, financial condition, results of operations, and prospects could possibly have changed since those dates.

Unless the context otherwise requires, the terms “we,” “us,” “our”, “the Company,” “the Corporation,” “the Registrant” and “Middlefield” mean Middlefield Banc Corp. and references to the “Plan” mean our Dividend Reinvestment Plan.

## RISK FACTORS

Investing in our shares involves significant risks. If you are considering purchasing or selling our shares or participating in the Plan, you should consider (x) the risks described under the heading “Item 1A. Risk Factors” in Part I of our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, (y) any risks described under the heading “Item 1A. Risk Factors” in Part II of our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC after we filed our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as well as any amendments thereto reflected in subsequent filings with the SEC, and (z) the following risks:

- *There is no price protection for your shares in the Plan.* Because you will not have the ability to control the price or timing of purchases of shares under the Plan, your investment in the shares held in the Plan will be exposed to changes in market conditions and changes in the market value of the shares. Your ability to liquidate or otherwise dispose of shares in the Plan is subject to the terms of the Plan and to Plan withdrawal procedures. You could purchase or sell shares under the Plan at a price that is different from the price that would apply if instead you acquired or sold shares directly on the open market on the related dividend payment date, purchase date, or sale date.
- *We might not be able to pay dividends.* Our board of directors has the discretion to declare dividends. If we are unable to maintain profitability, or if Federal or state bank regulatory agencies having supervisory authority over us or our subsidiaries impose dividend restrictions, or if the board of directors decides that dividends shall be suspended, we might not be able to make distributions to our stockholders.
- *Our stock is thinly traded.* You should purchase shares for long-term investment only. There is limited trading in our stock in the over-the-counter market. Thinly traded, illiquid stocks are more susceptible to significant and sudden price changes than stocks that are widely followed by the investment community and that are actively traded on an exchange such as Nasdaq. We cannot assure you that there will at any time in the future be an active trading market for our common stock. Our stock is not listed on a stock exchange and we currently do not intend to seek listing of the common stock on an exchange. Even if we do successfully list the common stock on a stock exchange, we nevertheless could not assure you that an organized public market for our common stock would develop. As a result, you should participate in the Plan if and only if you are capable of making and are seeking to make a long-term investment in our common stock.
- *The issuance of additional shares under the Plan could dilute the value of your shares and your voting power.* The issuance of additional shares could adversely affect the per share market price of our shares. In addition, the issuance of additional shares could dilute your percentage ownership interest and voting power.

In addition to considering these risks, you should carefully consider the cautionary statements under the heading “Cautionary Notice Regarding Forward Looking Statements.” You should consult your own financial, tax, legal, and other advisors about whether to participate in the Plan.

## CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This document contains forward-looking statements (as defined in section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) about Middlefield Banc Corp. and subsidiaries. Information incorporated in this document by reference, future filings by Middlefield Banc Corp. on Form 10-K, Form 10-Q, and Form 8-K, and future oral and written statements by Middlefield Banc Corp. and its management may also contain forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include statements about anticipated operating and financial performance, such as loan originations, operating efficiencies, loan sales, charge-offs and loan loss provisions, growth opportunities, interest rates, and deposit growth. Words such as “may,” “could,” “should,” “would,” “believe,” “anticipate,” “estimate,” “expect,” “intend,” “project,” “plan,” and similar expressions are intended to identify these forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are necessarily subject to many risks and uncertainties. A number of things could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by the forward-looking statements. These include the factors we discuss immediately below, other factors discussed in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and those presented elsewhere by our management from time to time. Many of the risks and uncertainties are beyond our control. The following factors could cause our operating and financial performance to differ materially from the plans, objectives, assumptions, expectations, estimates, and intentions expressed in forward-looking statements:

- the strength of the United States economy in general and the strength of the local economies in which we conduct our operations; general economic conditions, either nationally or regionally, may be less favorable than we expect, resulting in deterioration in the credit quality of our loan assets, among other things
- the effects of, and changes in, trade, monetary, and fiscal policies and laws, including interest-rate policies of the Federal Reserve Board
- inflation, interest rate, market, and monetary fluctuations
- the development and acceptance of new products and services of Middlefield Banc Corp. and subsidiaries and the perceived overall value of these products and services by users, including the features, pricing, and quality compared to competitors’ products and services
- the willingness of users to substitute our products and services for those of competitors
- the impact of changes in financial services laws and regulations (including laws concerning taxes, banking, securities, and insurance)
- changes in consumer spending and saving habits

Forward-looking statements are based on our beliefs, plans, objectives, goals, assumptions, expectations, estimates, and intentions as of the date the statements are made. You should exercise caution because Middlefield Banc Corp. cannot give any assurance that its beliefs, plans, objectives, goals, assumptions, expectations, estimates, and intentions will be realized. We disclaim any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements based on the occurrence of future events, the receipt of new information, or otherwise.

### MIDDLEFIELD BANC CORP.

Incorporated in 1988 under the Ohio General Corporation Law, Middlefield Banc Corp. is a bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956. Our principal executive offices are located at 15985 East High Street, P.O. Box 35, Middlefield, Ohio 44062-0035, and our telephone number is (440) 632-1666 or (888) 801-1666.

## DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN

Middlefield Banc Corp.'s Dividend Reinvestment Plan – referred to in this prospectus as the “Plan” – is set forth below in question and answer format.

### Purpose

**1. What is the Plan's purpose?** The Plan is designed to promote long-term ownership by investors who are committed to building their Middlefield stock ownership over time. The Plan provides holders of record of common stock with a simple and convenient method to invest cash dividends and optional cash payments in additional shares of common stock without paying brokerage commissions or fees.

### Advantages

**2. What are the Plan's advantages?** If you are an eligible shareholder of record and you wish to participate in the Plan, you may—

- automatically reinvest all cash dividends on your shares of Middlefield common stock, or
- automatically reinvest cash dividends on at least 10% of your shares of common stock, or
- invest in additional shares of common stock by making optional cash payments of not less than \$50 per payment, up to an aggregate maximum of \$50,000 annually. You may make optional cash contributions if and only if you enroll for full or partial reinvestment of your dividends.

You will pay no commissions or fees for purchases under the Plan. You can avoid the need for safekeeping of certificates for common stock credited to your account. Periodic statements of account will provide simplified record keeping. Full investment of funds is possible under the Plan because fractions of common shares (computed to three decimal places) as well as whole common shares will be credited to your Plan account. Additionally, dividends will be paid both on whole shares and on fractional shares. Over time, reinvested dividends can have a compounding effect by earning dividends themselves.

### Administration

**3. Who administers the Plan?** American Stock Transfer & Trust Company LLC, which is Middlefield's registrar and transfer agent, currently acts as Plan Administrator, maintaining records, sending statements of account to participants, and performing other duties under the Plan. Middlefield reserves the right to change Plan Administrators in the future. All transaction processing concerning the Plan should be addressed to American Stock Transfer & Trust Company LLC, P.O. Box 922, Wall Street Station, New York, New York 10269-0560. All inquiries regarding your account should be directed to American Stock Transfer & Trust Company LLC, 6201 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11219, attention Shareholder Relations Department, or call 1-(888)-888-0143.

### Participation

**4. Who is eligible to participate?** If you are a holder of record of Middlefield common stock, you are eligible to participate in the Plan. If your shares are registered in a name other than your own (for example, in the name of a broker or bank nominee) but you wish to participate in the Plan, you must first become a shareholder of record by having shares transferred into your name.

Middlefield reserves the right to refuse to register or qualify its common stock or the offer or sale of the common stock in any state or jurisdiction if, in Middlefield's sole judgment, the burden or costs of such registration or qualification are excessive. You will not be eligible to participate in the Plan if you reside in a state or jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for Middlefield to permit your participation. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities offered hereby in any jurisdiction or to any person in which or to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation.

**5. How does an eligible shareholder participate?** If you are a shareholder of record of shares of Middlefield common stock, you may join the Plan at any time by completing and signing an Authorization Card and returning it to the Plan Administrator. Authorization Cards may be obtained at any time by a written request to the Plan Administrator at the address noted in Question 3, by contacting the Plan Administrator at 1-(888)-888-0143, or by accessing the Plan Administrator's website at [www.amstock.com](http://www.amstock.com). If shares are registered in more than one name (for example as joint tenants, trustees, *etc.*), all registered holders must sign. You may also enroll online by accessing your account via [www.amstock.com](http://www.amstock.com). Shareholders who do not wish to participate in the Plan do not need to take any action, and they will continue to receive dividends when and as declared.

If you return a properly executed Authorization Card to the Plan Administrator without electing an investment option, you will be deemed to have elected full reinvestment of all cash dividends paid on your Middlefield common stock.

If you are already enrolled in the Plan and you wish to remain enrolled in the Plan, you do not need to take any action.

**6. Is partial participation possible under the Plan?** Yes, provided that you elect to have dividends reinvested on at least 10% of your shares. Because of tax law changes that are included in the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, we have amended the Plan to provide that a participant must choose reinvestment of at least 10% of each dividend. You may elect to have cash dividends on a portion of your shares of Middlefield common stock reinvested, as long as that portion is at least 10%, and you will receive the remainder of your cash dividends in cash.

### **The Authorization Card**

**7. What does the Authorization Card provide?** The Authorization Card allows each shareholder to decide his or her participation level in the Plan: full reinvestment of all cash dividends, or partial reinvestment of dividends on only a portion of his or her shares, provided that the portion for which dividends shall be reinvested is at least 10%. By checking the appropriate box on the Authorization Card, a shareholder may choose between the following options –

If the shareholder elects "Full Dividend Reinvestment," all cash dividends on all shares of Middlefield common stock registered in his or her name will be applied toward the purchase of additional shares of Middlefield common stock. A shareholder who elects "Full Dividend Reinvestment" is automatically entitled to make optional cash payments that will also be applied toward the purchase of additional shares under the Plan, or

If the shareholder elects "Partial Dividend Reinvestment," meaning reinvestment of dividends on fewer than all of his or her certificated shares, cash dividends on the specified portion of his or her shares of Middlefield common stock will be applied toward the purchase of additional shares, provided that the portion for which dividends shall be reinvested is at least 10%. Cash dividends on the other portion of his or her certificated shares of Middlefield common stock – the portion not specified for dividend reinvestment – will continue to be paid to the shareholder in cash. A shareholder who elects "Partial Dividend Reinvestment" is automatically entitled to make optional cash payments that will also be applied toward the purchase of additional shares under the Plan.

Regardless of whether the shares were purchased with reinvested dividends or with optional cash payments, cash dividends payable on all shares of common stock held in your Plan account will be automatically reinvested in additional shares of common stock, unless you change or revoke the instructions on the Authorization Card in writing, or unless you terminate your participation in the Plan.

**8. How may a participant change options under the Plan?** You may change investment options under the Plan at any time by completing a new Authorization Card and returning it to the Plan Administrator. New Authorization Cards can be obtained upon request from the Plan Administrator at the address noted in Question 3.

## Joining the Plan

9. *When may an eligible shareholder join the Plan?* You may join the Plan at any time. If the Plan Administrator receives your Authorization Card at the address specified in Question 3 on or before the record date for a dividend payment, reinvestment of dividends on the number of shares participating in the Plan will begin with that dividend payment date. If the Plan Administrator receives your Authorization Card after the record date for a dividend payment, reinvestment of dividends will begin with the dividend payment date after the next record date. All optional cash payments will be invested in the manner described in Questions 10 and 13 after the Plan Administrator receives your Authorization Card and the optional cash payment.

Dividend record dates for Middlefield common stock and the related payment dates are generally on or about the following dates

<u>Approximate Record Date</u>	<u>Approximate Payment Date</u>
March 4	March 15
June 4	June 15
September 4	September 15
December 4	December 15

The Plan does not represent a change in Middlefield's dividend policy, nor does it represent a guarantee of future dividends. Future dividends will continue to be determined by the board of directors based upon Middlefield's earnings, financial condition, and other factors.

## Investment Date

10. *What is the Investment Date?* For dividends reinvested under the Plan, "Investment Date" means the date on which dividends are paid. For an optional cash payment, "Investment Date" means the first business day of the month immediately after the month in which the optional cash payment is received by the Plan Administrator, or – if the month immediately after the month in which the optional cash payment is received is a month in which a dividend is paid – the next dividend payment date after the optional cash payment is received.

## Purchases of Common Stock Under the Plan

11. *What is the source of Middlefield common stock purchased under the Plan?* In Middlefield's discretion, Middlefield common stock purchased under the Plan with reinvested dividends or optional cash payments may be purchased directly from Middlefield, or on the open market, or otherwise from sources other than Middlefield. The Plan Administrator will use dividends and optional cash payments to acquire shares from Middlefield if available for the account of participants. If Middlefield is not then making shares available for purchase under the Plan, the shares of Middlefield common stock may instead be purchased in the open market or in negotiated transactions. In its sole discretion, Middlefield reserves the right to cease making shares available for purchases under the Plan and to resume making shares available at any time.

Middlefield common stock is traded in the over-the-counter market under the ticker symbol "MBCN." The stock is not actively traded. Shares of Middlefield common stock are not listed on any stock exchanges. Thinly traded, illiquid stocks are more susceptible to significant and sudden price changes than stocks that are widely followed by the investment community and that are actively traded on an exchange such as Nasdaq. Because the market for Middlefield common stock is illiquid, Middlefield expects that, at least initially, all or almost all shares purchased under the Plan will be purchased directly from Middlefield, rather than on the open market or otherwise.

Middlefield currently does not intend to seek listing of the common stock on a securities exchange. Even if Middlefield does successfully list the common stock on a securities exchange, we nevertheless could not assure you that an organized public market for Middlefield common stock will develop.

**12. What will be the price of common stock purchased under the Plan?** For shares purchased from Middlefield directly, the purchase price per share will be the average closing price over the three trading days immediately preceding the date of purchase. For shares purchased on the open market or from sources other than Middlefield, the purchase price will be the weighted average of the prices paid for the common stock shares in all such purchases.

**13. When will purchases be made?** Purchases of stock directly from Middlefield will be made on the applicable Investment Date or as soon thereafter as is practicable. Purchases of common stock from sources other than Middlefield will begin as of the applicable Investment Date, continuing over the period determined appropriate under the circumstances by the Plan Administrator, but concluding in all events within 30 days after the applicable Investment Date. Securities and Exchange Commission rules could force Middlefield to change these anticipated investment dates or to temporarily suspend or defer purchase of shares.

**14. Will interest be paid on funds pending investment or reinvestment?** No. Interest will not be paid on dividends or optional cash payments held pending investment.

**15. How many shares of common stock will be purchased for a participant?** The number of shares of common stock that are purchased depends on the amount of your reinvested dividend, the amount of your optional cash payments, and the purchase price of the common stock at the time. Your Plan account will be credited with that number of shares of common stock – including fractions computed to three decimal places – equal to your total amount to be invested divided by the purchase price per common share.

**16. What will Middlefield do with the proceeds raised through the Plan with reinvested dividends and optional cash payments?** If the additional shares of common stock are purchased directly from Middlefield, Middlefield will use the additional funds for general corporate purposes. See “USE OF PROCEEDS.”

### **Optional Cash Payments**

**17. How does the optional cash payment feature of the Plan work?** All eligible holders of record of shares of Middlefield common stock (except for brokers and nominees) who submit an Authorization Card are eligible to make optional cash payments at any time. Like cash dividends, optional cash payments submitted by a Plan participant will be invested in additional shares of Middlefield common stock beginning on the applicable Investment Date. Cash dividends payable on all shares of common stock credited to your Plan account, whether the shares were purchased with reinvested dividends or optional cash payments, will be automatically reinvested in additional shares of common stock.

**18. How may optional cash payments be made?** Along with your Authorization Card, you may make an optional cash payment when you enroll in the Plan by enclosing a check payable to the Plan Administrator identified in Question 3. Thereafter, you may make optional cash payments monthly, quarterly, or at any other interval through the use of the form that will be attached to your statement of account or by the internet at [www.amstock.com](http://www.amstock.com). Each optional cash payment must be at least \$50, and all of your optional cash payments cannot exceed \$50,000 in any one calendar year.

### **Expenses**

**19. What are the expenses to participants in the Plan?** All costs of administration of the Plan will be paid by Middlefield. You will not pay brokerage fees or commissions for your purchase of common stock under the Plan. However, you will be charged with expenses if you withdraw all shares held under the Plan or if you terminate participation in the Plan. Certain expenses may be incurred if you receive a cash payment for a fraction of a common share credited to your Plan account when you withdraw common stock credited to your Plan account or when you terminate your participation in the Plan. Please see Question 29 for more information.

## Federal Income Tax Consequences

**20. What are the Federal income tax consequences of participation in the Plan?** The following is a very brief summary of the current Federal income tax consequences of participation in the Plan. The information in this summary is based upon the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which we refer to as the “Code,” U.S. Department of Treasury regulations issued under the Code, current administrative interpretations and practices of the Internal Revenue Service, and court decisions, all as of the date of this prospectus. Future legislation, U.S. Department of Treasury regulations, administrative interpretations, and court decisions could significantly change the current law or adversely affect existing interpretations of current law. Any change could apply retroactively to transactions preceding the date of the change. This summary is for general information purposes only and does not constitute tax advice. This summary also does not treat state, local, or foreign income or other tax laws or the tax consequences for types of persons subject to special treatment under the Federal tax laws (for example, partnerships or tax-exempt organizations) or participants residing outside of the United States.

In general, a shareholder who participates in the Plan will have the same Federal income tax consequences for cash dividends payable on common stock in a Plan account as if he or she were not a participant in the Plan. In the case of a cash dividend, you will be treated for Federal income tax purposes as having received on the dividend payment date a dividend equal to the full amount of the dividend payable on all of your stock, including shares registered in your name and shares credited to your Plan account. This is true even if you do not actually receive the cash dividends, but rather have them applied to the purchase of additional shares of common stock under the Plan.

Commissions and brokerage fees paid by Middlefield for purchases on the open market or from sources other than Middlefield will be taxable income to you in an amount equal to your *pro rata* share of the commissions and fees. Your *pro rata* share of commissions and fees will be reported as ordinary dividend income for the calendar year. The holding period of shares purchased with reinvested dividends or with optional cash payments will begin on the date after the date on which the shares are purchased and credited to your Plan account, regardless of the source of purchase. The tax basis of shares will be the cost of the shares, plus the *pro rata* share of any commissions and fees. The Plan Administrator will report the cost basis of shares purchased under the Plan after January 1, 2011 using the first-in, first-out method. This means that when a participant elects to sell or dispose of shares acquired under the Plan on or after January 1, 2011, the amount of gain or loss will be calculated using the tax basis of the oldest shares acquired by the participant on or after January 1, 2011. A participant may be able to elect that the cost basis of shares acquired under the Plan with optional cash payments after January 1, 2011 be determined using a different method.

You will not realize any Federal taxable income when you receive certificates for whole shares of common stock credited to your Plan account, either when you withdraw some or all of the shares credited to your Plan account or when you terminate your participation in the Plan. However, if you receive a cash payment for a fractional share of common stock credited to your Plan account when you withdraw shares from the Plan or when you terminate your participation in the Plan, you will realize a gain or loss for the fractional share. A gain or loss also will be realized by a participant when whole shares of common stock are sold by the participant after withdrawal of the shares from the Plan account or after termination of the participant’s participation in the Plan. The amount of the gain or loss will be the difference between the amount the participant receives for full or fractional shares of common stock and the tax basis of the shares. The gain or loss will be a capital gain or loss if the shares constitute capital assets in the hands of the participant.

Each statement of account under the Plan will show the price per share to the participant of shares purchased with reinvested dividends or with optional cash investments. The statement of account will also show the date on which shares purchased under the Plan were credited to the participant’s account.

Information forms (Forms 1099-DIV) will be mailed to Plan participants each year, setting forth the taxable dividends reportable for Federal income tax purposes. These dividends must be reported on your Federal income

tax return. Reinvested dividends are not subject to U.S. backup withholding unless (x) a participant fails to give the participant's social security or tax identification number to us, (y) the IRS notifies us that the participant is subject to tax withholding or (z) the participant fails to certify, under penalties of perjury, that the participant is not subject to backup withholding, if the certification is required. If a participant is a shareholder whose dividends are subject to tax withholding, we will apply toward the purchase of shares under the Plan an amount equal to the dividends being reinvested less the amount of tax required to be withheld. The participant's statement of account under the Plan will indicate the amount of tax withheld.

*Participants should consult their own tax advisors to determine the particular Federal, state, local, and foreign tax consequences that may result from their participation in the Plan and the subsequent sale or other disposition of common stock under the Plan. Participants' tax consequences may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.*

## **Reports to Participants**

**21. What kind of reports will be sent to participants?** You will receive a quarterly statement of account. The statements are a record of the date and cost of purchase. You should retain your account statements for income tax purposes. You will also receive reports, proxy statements, and other communications sent to holders of Middlefield common stock generally. Lastly, after the final purchase in each calendar year you will receive Internal Revenue Service information on Form 1099 for reporting dividend income received during the year.

## **Dividends on Fractions of Shares**

**22. Will participants be credited with dividends on fractions of shares?** Yes. Dividends on fractional and whole shares will be reinvested.

## **Certificates for Shares**

**23. Will certificates be issued for shares of common stock purchased?** No. Shares of common stock credited to your Plan account will be held in the name of the Plan Administrator or its nominee. The number of shares credited to your account under the Plan will be shown on your statement of account. This service protects against loss, theft, or destruction of certificates. However, certificates for any number of whole shares credited to a participant's account under the Plan can be issued without charge upon the participant's written request.

Shares of common stock credited to your account under the Plan may not be pledged or assigned. Any attempted pledge or assignment is void. If you wish to pledge or assign any shares credited to your Plan account, you must first withdraw the shares from the Plan account.

Certificates for fractions of shares will not be issued under any circumstances.

**24. In whose name will certificates be registered when issued to participants?** Each account under the Plan will be maintained in the name shown on the Authorization Card. Certificates for whole shares of common stock will be similarly registered when issued.

**25. May a participant add shares to his or her account by transferring stock certificates that the participant possesses?** Yes. You may deposit certificates representing shares with the Plan Administrator for safekeeping, but it is not necessary that you do so in order to reinvest dividends payable for shares of common stock represented by the certificates. If you wish to deposit your certificates with the Plan Administrator for safekeeping, certificates must be presented in transferable form and must be accompanied by a written request that the certificates be held for your account. The Plan Administrator charges a fee for this service, which is payable by the participant. The fee is \$7.50 as of the date of this prospectus, and is subject to change in the sole discretion of the Plan Administrator.

## **Withdrawal of Common Stock in Plan Account**

**26. How may common stock be withdrawn from the Plan account?** Certificates representing shares credited to your Plan account may be withdrawn by notifying the Plan Administrator in a writing that specifies the number of shares to be withdrawn. Certificates for whole shares of common stock withdrawn will be issued to and registered in your name. Cash will be paid in lieu of fractional shares. The Plan Administrator will charge a fee to a participant who withdraws all shares from his or her Plan Account. The fee is \$15.00 as of the date of this prospectus and is subject to change in the sole discretion of the Plan Administrator.

**27. Will dividends on common stock withdrawn from the Plan account continue to be reinvested?** If you elected “Full Dividend Reinvestment,” cash dividends paid on shares withdrawn from your Plan account will continue to be reinvested. However, if cash dividends on only a portion of the certificated shares registered in your name are being reinvested, the Plan Administrator will continue to reinvest dividends solely on the shares you specified on the Authorization Card (together with any other shares acquired under the Plan and not withdrawn), unless you deliver a new Authorization Card specifying a different number of shares.

**28. May a participant sell shares held in his or her account?** Yes. You may sell all or a portion of your shares at any time. You can use the tear-off stub attached to the bottom of your account statement and mail it to American Stock Transfer and Trust Company LLC, go online and access your account, or call the toll-free number to sell shares. The transaction fee is \$15.00, along with a commission payable at the rate of \$0.10 cents per share.

## **Termination**

**29. How would a participant terminate participation under the Plan?** To terminate your participation in the Plan, you must notify the Plan Administrator in writing that you wish to terminate. You may also terminate your participation in the Plan through the Plan Administrator’s website at [www.amstock.com](http://www.amstock.com). Notice of termination must be accompanied by a termination fee (\$15.00 as of the date of this prospectus) payable to the Plan Administrator, which fee is subject to adjustment from time to time in the sole discretion of the Plan Administrator. Your termination notice should be addressed to the Plan Administrator at the address given in Question 3. Your termination notice will be effective only when received by the Plan Administrator. If you voluntarily terminate your participation in the Plan, a certificate for whole shares of common stock credited to your Plan account will be issued to you, and a cash payment will be made to you for any fractional share of common stock held in your Plan account, minus the \$15.00 transaction fee.

**30. When may a participant withdraw common stock from his or her Plan account?** You may withdraw shares of common stock credited to your Plan account or terminate your participation in the Plan at any time. If your request to withdraw or terminate is received by the Plan Administrator three days or more before a dividend payment date, the withdrawal or termination will be processed as soon as practical after receipt of the request. If your request to withdraw or terminate is received by the Plan Administrator fewer than three days before a dividend payment date, the withdrawal or termination will not be processed and shares purchased with the dividend will be credited to your account. However, all future dividends will be paid out in cash on all balances. Any optional cash payment received before the request for withdrawal or termination will be reinvested, unless (x) you request return of the optional cash payment at the time you request withdrawal or termination, and (y) your request is received at least two business days before the next Investment Date. All subsequent dividends will be paid to you in cash unless you re-enroll in the Plan. Middlefield reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to terminate the Plan or any participant’s account at any time.

**31. May a participant re-enroll in the Plan after having previously withdrawn from the Plan?** Yes. Generally, you may elect to re-enroll in the Plan at any time simply by following the same procedures described in the answer to Question 5. However, Middlefield reserve the right to reject any Authorization Card from a previous participant on grounds of excessive enrollment and termination of participation in the Plan. Middlefield desires to minimize unnecessary administrative expense and to encourage use of the Plan as a long-term shareholder investment service.

**32.** *May a participant request that shares held in his or her account be sold upon termination of participation?* Yes. If you terminate your participation in the Plan, the Plan Administrator can arrange for sale of the shares if you so request according to the procedure specified above.

### **Other Information**

**33.** *What happens when a participant sells or transfers shares registered in his or her name?* If you sell or transfer all shares of Middlefield common stock registered in your name, that will be deemed to constitute termination of your participation in the Plan. A certificate for whole shares may be issued to you, and cash will be paid in lieu of any fractional shares held in your Plan account, less any service fees. It will be your responsibility to deliver the certificate to the new owner. If you sell a portion of your shares, Middlefield will continue to reinvest cash dividends solely on the portion of the shares of common stock that is credited to your Plan account and not sold.

**34.** *What happens if Middlefield issues a stock dividend or declares a stock split?* If Middlefield declares a stock dividend or stock split, all shares will be added to the participant account in book entry form. You will receive a statement reflecting the stock dividend or stock split. All transactions may either be curtailed or suspended until the completion of any stock dividend, stock split, or corporate action.

**35.** *How will common stock credited to a participant's Plan account be voted at shareholders' meetings?* For each meeting of shareholders, a participant will receive proxy material enabling the participant to vote shares registered in his or her name and shares credited to his or her Plan account. If you choose to do so, you may vote your shares of common stock in person at shareholders' meetings.

**36.** *What are Middlefield's responsibilities under the Plan?* Middlefield and the Plan Administrator shall have no responsibility beyond the exercise of ordinary care for any action taken or omitted under the Plan, nor shall they have any duties, responsibilities, or liabilities except as expressly set forth in the Plan. Middlefield and the Plan Administrator will not be liable under the Plan for any act done in good faith or for any good faith omission to act with regard to purchases and sales, including without limitation any claim of liability (1) arising out of failure to terminate a participant's Plan account upon the participant's death or incompetence before Middlefield or the Plan Administrator receives written notice of the participant's death or incompetence, (2) with respect to the prices at which shares are purchased for a participant's account, (3) with respect to the times when such purchases or sales are made, or (4) with respect to any fluctuation in market value of Middlefield's common stock.

The participant should recognize that Middlefield and the Plan Administrator cannot assure the participant a profit or protect the participant against a loss on the shares of common stock purchased under the Plan.

**37.** *May the Plan be changed or discontinued?* Yes. Middlefield may amend, suspend, modify, or terminate the Plan at any time, including the period between a dividend record date and a dividend payment date. Notice of any such amendment, suspension, modification, or termination will be sent to all participants. Any such amendment shall conclusively be deemed to be accepted by a participant unless – before the effective date of any such amendment as set forth in the notice – Middlefield receives written notice of termination of the participant's account. If the Plan terminates, any uninvested optional cash payments will be returned, certificates for whole common shares credited to a participant's account under the Plan will be issued, and a cash payment will be made for any fraction of a share of common stock credited to a participant's account.

**38.** *Where will notices to a participant be sent?* All notices to a participant will be addressed to the participant at the last address of record with the Plan Administrator. If your address changes, please notify the Plan Administrator in writing at the address set forth in Question 3.

**39. *What is sufficient notice to a participant?*** Any written notice or certificate required to be given to you under the Plan will be deemed to have been sufficiently given for all purposes once deposited, postage prepaid, in a post office letter box addressed to you at your address as it appears on the Plan Administrator's records.

**40. *What law governs the Plan?*** The terms and conditions of the Plan and Plan operations are governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and the rules and regulations of the SEC, as they may be amended from time to time.

**41. *Who interprets the Plan?*** Middlefield reserves the sole right to interpret the Plan as may be necessary or desirable.

**42. *What if the Plan Administrator cannot make market purchases?*** If Middlefield decides not to make shares available for purchase under the Plan, and if applicable law or the closing of securities markets requires the temporary curtailment or suspension of market purchases of common stock under the Plan, neither Middlefield nor the Plan Administrator will be accountable for its inability to make purchases at such times. If common stock is not available for purchase for a period exceeding 90 days, the Plan Administrator will promptly mail to the participant a check payable to the order of the participant in the amount of any funds not applied in the participant's account, without interest.

## **USE OF PROCEEDS**

We have no basis for estimating precisely the number of shares of common stock that ultimately may be sold under the Plan, the extent to which shares will be purchased directly from Middlefield Banc Corp. rather than in the open market, or the prices at which shares will be sold. The net proceeds from any purchases of common stock directly from Middlefield under the Plan will provide funds that we would use for general corporate purposes. Shares purchased in market transactions will provide no proceeds to Middlefield. Because there currently is limited trading in Middlefield Banc Corp. common stock, we currently expect that all or almost all shares purchased under the Plan will be purchased directly from us rather than on the open market or otherwise.

## **INDEMNIFICATION**

Middlefield's regulations authorize indemnification of officers and directors, including indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933. The indemnification rights set forth in the regulations and the Ohio General Corporation Law are not exclusive of any other indemnification rights to which a director or officer may be entitled under an indemnification agreement or board resolution. Under the terms of Middlefield's directors' and officers' liability insurance policy, Middlefield's directors and officers are insured against certain liabilities, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933. Lastly, Middlefield has entered into indemnification agreements with directors and executive officers.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers, and persons controlling Middlefield, Middlefield has been informed that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is therefore unenforceable.

## **LEGAL OPINION**

The validity of the common stock offered hereby has been passed upon for Middlefield by Grady & Associates, 20950 Center Ridge Road, Suite 100, Rocky River, Ohio 44116-4307.

## **EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Middlefield Banc Corp. appearing or incorporated by reference in the Annual Report of Middlefield Banc Corp. on Form 10-K have been audited by S.R. Snodgrass, A.C., independent certified public accountants, as set forth in their report thereon included therein, and are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given upon the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

## **WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

Middlefield Banc Corp. is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. In accordance with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Middlefield Banc Corp. files reports, proxy statements, and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The reports, proxy statements, and other information, and the Form S-3 registration statement of which this prospectus is a part may be inspected and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Information concerning the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an internet web site that contains reports, proxy statements, information statements, and other information regarding issuers that, like Middlefield Banc Corp., file electronically with the SEC. The address of that site is <http://www.sec.gov>.

Middlefield Banc Corp. has filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933 relating to the offer and sale of shares under the Dividend Reinvestment Plan. This prospectus does not contain all the information set forth in the registration statement, certain parts of which are omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. Reference is made to the registration statement for further information.

Our internet address is [www.middlefieldbank.com](http://www.middlefieldbank.com). Through our web site we make available free of charge the reports and documents that we file with the SEC, including our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and proxy statements. The information on our internet website is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

## INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The following documents filed with the SEC by Middlefield Banc Corp. are incorporated in this prospectus by reference as of their respective dates –

- (a) Middlefield Banc Corp.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011,
- (b) All other reports filed under section 13(a) or section 15(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 by Middlefield Banc Corp. since the end of the fiscal year covered by the Annual Report on Form 10-K referred to in (a) above,
- (c) The description of Middlefield Banc Corp. common stock contained in the Form 10 Registration Statement, filed with the SEC on April 17, 2001, and amended by Amendment No. 1 filed on June 14, 2001, and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description, and
- (d) All other reports filed under section 13, section 14, or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 subsequent to the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering of the common stock under the Plan.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document that also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes the statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

Upon written or oral request and at no charge, Middlefield Banc Corp. will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom this prospectus is delivered a copy of any or all of the documents identified in "Incorporation of Documents by Reference," other than exhibits to the documents (unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into the documents). Requests should be directed to:

Middlefield Banc Corp.  
15985 East High Street, P.O. Box 35  
Middlefield, Ohio 44062  
Attention: Mr. James R. Heslop, II  
(440) 632-1666