

MCDO

(Marion Community Development Organization)

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2013

This newsletter is distributed by the Marion Community Development Organization (MCDO). The goal of this newsletter is to inform area citizens in or near the Marion Local School District of the activities of the MCDO.

MCDO has worked on many projects and continues to be active in many areas with its eight standing committees. MCDO is constantly working on initiatives that will ultimately enable our communities to grow and develop. Contact us with questions, comments and concerns.

OFFICE LOCATION The MCDO office is located in the Marion Township Building in the Industrial Park. MCDO meetings are normally held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Marion Township building

2013 Board of Directors

Jim Keller, President	419-925-4764
Barb Kahlig, Secretary	419-925-6301
Jean Bender	419-925-4254
Greg Garman	419-925-5202

Coordinator

Jim Keller	419-925-4764
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Committee Chairpersons

Agricultural Development:	
Mark Hardesty, DVM	419-925-4212
Business Retention & Dev.:	
Randy Bruns	419-925-0241
Health, Safety & Education:	
Elaine Wolters	419-925-4620
Housing:	
Bob Unrast	419-925-4151
Infrastructure:	
Jeff Schwieterman	419-925-4345
Land Use:	
John Bruns	419-925-4712
Membership:	
Bob Dippold	419-305-0128
Recreation:	
Kirk Stucke	419-733-6261

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MARION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

PO Box 65, Maria Stein, OH, 45860-0065

Phone: 419-925-4764

Website: <http://marioncommunities.com>

Email: mcdo@bright.net

MARION COMMUNITY UPDATE

Jim Keller, President

AGRICULTURE: On October 21, a Grain Safety Demonstrations/Training session was held in the Homan Farms building in the Industrial Park. The Ohio State Ag Department, Local Fire Departments and the County Extension Office were all involved. The event went very well with many Ag students and local farmers attending.

In November, The Boosters attended a Greenhand and Chapter Degree Ceremony. These degrees are the entry level degrees in the FFA program. Booster member Terry Mescher addressed the group assuring them that the boosters will continue to support the program in any way they can.

At the December meeting, President Bart Homan led a discussion concerning the most effective approach to utilizing the scholarship and loan programs the boosters offer.

This fall, students from Marion Local's Ag Ed Program attended the National FFA Convention. Lauren Bruns received her American FFA Degree. She is the first ML student to receive this since the early 90's. Congratulations Lauren!

A couple of Ag Solutions initiatives are providing useful information regarding how crops absorb nutrients. The ADAPT program uses multiple soil and plant samples to scientifically determine the amount of nutrients being used. Many acres in the watershed are being studied. A new study focused primarily on phosphorous utilization will begin in the 2014 growing season. Glen Arnold, a manure applications specialist stationed in Putnam County, has a number of test plots which allow him to study the efficiency of applying liquid manure to growing crops. His trials reflect that this is a cost effective approach. The growing crops utilize the nutrients efficiently preventing them from entering the waterways.

COMMUNITY REPORT: The long talked about and awaited expansion of the Marion Industrial Park is reaching finalization. Pat & Nancy Nieberding have agreed to sell the required acreage, funding has been secured, tax deferments to cover infrastructure are in place and several potential tenants have come forward. Site preparation and infrastructure installation is scheduled for the spring of 2014. Many people worked creatively and diligently to make this happen. The MCDO extends a big Marion Community THANK YOU to all of them. If a new or existing business has an interest in a place to build or expand, please contact Ron Puthoff with Community Development Services. His phone is (419) 305-7260, email - puthoff1@bright.net

The recently completed income surveys reflect that the village of Chickasaw qualifies for grants to build a new water

plant. Al Lochtefeld, President of the Chickasaw Board of Public Affairs, is putting together a committee which will oversee the selection of a firm to build the facility. The MCDO will be involved since once completed water from the plant will be available to the broader community.

NKTELCO has installed a communications building in Maria Stein and is installing infrastructure which will provide Chickasaw, Maria Stein and Osgood with state of the art, fiber optic phone, cable TV and internet service. Their General Manager, Preston Meyer informs us that his goal is to be providing service in the area by spring 2014.

THANKS

The MCDO was founded to assure the growth and continuation of our community especially our school. Not only is our school alive and well, it continues to thrive and "put us on the map". When young couples look for a place to live, a primary consideration is the quality of the overall education their children will receive. Marion Local has established a reputation for providing excellent academic and athletic opportunities for its students. The school's success truly helps keep our community vibrant and growing. Everyone wants to be part of a winning community. A great big MCDO thanks to our school board, the administration, the coaching staffs, the parents and all our students who work so hard to provide us with a deep sense of pride in who we are.

CLARIFICATION

It is easy to confuse 3 unique entities which are all working to improve the quality of living in the Marion Community. These are the MCDO itself, the MCDO 301 Club and the Marion Park Board. The MCDO is organized to do what it can to improve the economic, cultural and social aspects of the area. It is a non-profit organization and supports many sub-groups under its auspices including the 301 Club. This Club raises money for all the parks in the area. Membership includes the chance to win in their monthly drawings. Winners are always published in the MCDO minutes. Members also are invited to an annual gathering at the Maria Stein Legion for food and refreshments. The Marion Park board is a unique non-profit organized for the sole intent of the maintenance and improvement of the township park. They also hold fund raisers with all proceeds going to the Marion Township Park. Each of these groups has a board with elected officers and unique membership roles. Many good folks in the community donate to all three through their membership and if you are not already one of them we would strongly encourage you to do so. Your contributions are used wisely to enhance our community.

We're always looking for individuals with good ideas concerning how our community can grow and prosper. If you have some ideas give me a call. I'd love to discuss them with you.



MARION LOCAL SCHOOL NEWS

Mike Pohlman, Superintendent

The first half of the school year is complete and our community has had a lot to celebrate. I would like to congratulate the volleyball and their back to back state championships and the football team for their three peat performance. It is very enjoyable to see our student athletes have success after putting in many hours of work. I would like to also congratulate our newly inducted National Honor Society students. The following students were inducted: Austin Albers, Ryan Bruns, Jason Brunswick, Abby Fleck, Kate Goodwin, Stacy Hartings, Nathan Heckman, Katie Heitkamp, Taylor Homan, Chris Lochtefeld, Holly Lochtefeld, Melinda Meiring, Heather Mescher, Kristi Moorman, Kate Smith, Allie Thobe, Sara Thwaites, Allie Wendel, Megan Wendel, Amy Will, Brooke Winner, Clara Wuebker and Jessica Wynk. Congratulations to these students for this accomplishment.

We recently received notification that we have been awarded a grant to install security entrances that include a door locking release and camera notification system for our entrances at the elementary and high school. We are still in the planning stages and want to possibly redesign our foyer area to allow all traffic flow to go through the offices during school hours. This idea would entail pushing back the interior doors to make a larger foyer area. We also received notification that we were not accepted for the Straight A grant which the state set aside \$100 million dollars this year for schools to develop innovative ideas to push more money towards the classroom and have ideas to save districts money. We entered as a consortium with many other area schools and were not chosen but have a second chance with a second round coming in the future.

The senior citizens Christmas luncheon was a huge success and I would like to thank Lucy Moeller and the brass quartet from the Marion Local band. Autumn ended with some very interesting weather as we had to cancel school, but I can only be optimistic that this winter will be kind to us as we do our best to transport our most precious resource (our children) to and from school each day. It is good to finally begin the winter athletic season, and join me as we cheer on our Flyers!



SPIRITUAL CENTER

Robin Goettemoeller

It's cold outside, but it's warm inside the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein! Stop by our gift shop, have a cup of coffee, or visit the Chapel anytime to pray and spend time with God. Join us the first Sunday of each month for Evening Prayer and Benediction, which begins with the Rosary at 5:45 p.m. Healing Masses will take place Tuesdays, March 11, April 8, and May 13 with Fr. John Tonkin presiding. All are welcome to attend these liturgies that offer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Married couples looking for something to do on Valentine's Day are encouraged to register for the "Evening to Celebrate Marriage" on Saturday, February 15th. Youth in grades 8-12 are invited to attend the "Theology of the Body" retreat March 7th -9th. Call 419-925-7625 for more information or check our website for these and other events going on this winter at www.spiritualcenter.net.

MCDO 301 CLUB RECREATION COMMITTEE

Kirk Stucke President

The 301 Club is currently in the middle of the 2014 membership drive. We are reminding anyone who has not already renewed to please consider doing so by returning your renewal form and payment at your earliest convenience. If you have not received a renewal form in the mail or would like to become a member, please contact Kirk Stucke through email at mcelks2170@live.com, by phone at 419-733-6261 or any of the other committee members (Greg Nietfeld, Darrin Poepelman, Kurt Goettemoeller, Jason Winner, Eric Eyink, Craig Everman, Cory Albers, or Mitch Thobe).

Membership is \$50, as it always has been, and enters you into a weekly drawing of \$100. All members are randomly selected to win each week resulting in 52 - \$100 winners. Membership also entitles you to the appreciation party on January 17 after the boy's basketball home game vs. St. Henry. Food and drinks are provided for all members and their families.

We would like to thank the 200+ members who have already renewed and look forward to seeing all of the 2013 members at the annual appreciation party. Members can also renew the night of the party. As in the past, prizes will be awarded throughout the night.

The 301 Club is a non-profit group that has been actively supporting Marion youth programs and our local parks since 1996. Our goal is to help sustain active programs and the development of our parks. Our community and kids benefit and appreciate all your generosity.

Thank You!

2014 - MEMBERSHIP FORM

Business Membership Dues: \$60.00 _____ Family Membership Dues: \$15.00 _____

Please indicate if you would like a receipt for tax deduction: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please circle any committees listed if you are interested:

MEMBERSHIP/PROMOTION
AG-DEVELOPMENT
PARK AND RECREATION

HEALTH/EDUCATION
LAND PLANNING
INFRASTRUCTURE

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
HOUSING
TOURISM sub-committee

COMMENTS: _____

Please send remittance to: **MCDO - PO Box 65 - Maria Stein, OH 45860**

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