

# MCDO

(Marion Community Development Organization)

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2014

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

### 2014 Board of Directors

Jim Keller, President	419-925-4764
Barb Kahlig, Secretary	419-925-6301
Jean Bender	419-925-4254
Elaine Pierron	419-925-5704

### Coordinator

Jim Keller	419-925-4764
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### Committee Chairpersons

<b>Agricultural Development:</b>	
Mark Hardesty, DVM	419-925-4212
<b>Business Retention &amp; Dev.:</b>	
Open	
<b>Health, Safety &amp; Education:</b>	
Elaine Wolters	419-925-4620
<b>Housing:</b>	
Bob Unrast	419-925-4151
<b>Infrastructure:</b>	
Open	
<b>Land Use:</b>	
John Bruns	419-925-4712
<b>Membership:</b>	
Bob Dippold	419-305-0128
<b>Recreation:</b>	
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](mailto:mcdo@bright.net)

## MARION COMMUNITY UPDATE

*Jim Keller, President*

**AGRICULTURE:** The boosters continue to meet monthly with their discussions focused on actions that will most effectively support Marion Local's Ag Ed/FFA program. Recent topics have included student interest, funding a garden planted and cared for by the students, a building for hands on learning about plants and animals and continued interaction with school officials. The boosters want to keep the board and administration abreast of and enthused with the program.

On March 20, 2014 the FFA conducted its annual banquet. As a member of the boosters, I have been privileged to be invited to these annual events. As a retired business man I have been deeply impressed with the professionalism of our FFA students. They are becoming proficient in marketable skills such as public speaking, organization, planning and conducting meaningful, effective meetings. Thanks to the phenomenal success of our athletic programs many of our students have learned the value of hard work, teamwork and following the directions of a good boss (coach). FFA reinforces all those attributes and instills other important skills. FFA students learn to work toward goals over extended periods of time. They learn how to interview for a job effectively and how to lead without applause or the immediate satisfaction and acknowledgement springing from hitting that monster kill which wins a close volleyball match. Their efforts, spent for the most part out of the limelight, reflect exactly how most of us live: trying to be as productive as we can without a lot of fan fare. FFA truly does prepare students for life in the "real world". You can nourish your child's career by encouraging him/her to join FFA. You can help nourish this very worthwhile program by personally joining the boosters.

US Senator Rob Portman held a panel discussion at the Wright State Branch Campus on Saturday morning March 15, 2014. Senator Portman is pursuing legislation to approve federal dollars for addressing algae problems in lakes like Grand Lake St. Marys. Senator Portman wanted to get a local feel as to how funds from approved legislature could be most effectively spent. Fellow Ag Solutions member Bill Knap-

ke with Cooper Foods and I represented local Ag interests on the panel. Senator Portman listened well and took notes. It will be interesting to see what might unfold from this gathering.

**COMMUNITY REPORT:** Since the Winter Newsletter, even more local businesses have expressed interest in acquiring space in the expanded Industrial Park. A key undecided aspect is how to most effectively make the purchase so that all grants and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) can be optimized. This should be known very soon and everything can be finalized. We're still planning for site preparation and infrastructure installation to begin this spring. The MCDO again extends a big Marion Community THANK YOU to all of the many people who worked creatively and diligently to make this happen. There are still a few lots unspoken for so if you have an interest in a place to build or expand your business, please contact Ron Puthoff with Community Development Services. His phone is (419) 305-7260, email - puthoff1@bright.net

The committee coordinating the proposed Chickasaw Water facility met on February 6<sup>th</sup> and February 27<sup>th</sup>. Roberta Acosta, a Senior Development Specialist with the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) is guiding the group in all phases of this project. She is being assisted by Scott Strahley an engineer with RCAP. Al Lochtefeld, President of the Chickasaw Board of Public Affairs, is the local coordinator. Chickasaw mayor Doug Huelsman will be sending out "Request for Qualifications" forms to several design/build firms to screen out those with an interest in constructing Chickasaw's water facility.

With the weather clearing up, NKTelco plans to aggressively pursue the implementation of their service to our area.

We live in a great community and feel that the MCDO has and continues to make significant contributions to the quality of life here. We have two committees without chairpersons; Business Retention and Development and Infrastructure. It would great if we could "recruit" a couple of creative individuals for those vacancies. If you have an interest or if you have some ideas you'd like to see implemented, please give me a call. I'd love to discuss any aspects of the MCDO with you.



### MARION LOCAL SCHOOL NEWS

*Mike Pohlman, Superintendent*

As we are entering the final nine weeks of the school year I would like to thank everyone for their flexibility with the school schedule this winter due to weather related conditions and hope we can put that behind us. Students hearing my voice calling a two hour delay or cancelling school brought joy to many until it started tapping into their Easter and summer vacation. Legislation was recently passed to extend additional calamity days and our plan at Marion Local is to stay the course and make up the days that we have missed over the original five days that were allotted to use by the state. Currently we still have three make-up days and they include April 17, April 21<sup>st</sup>, and May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Another question we have recently been asked is our stance on E-Days or Blizzard Bags. E-Days and blizzard bags are an Ohio Department of Education approved online calamity day plan in which students can access assignments either electronically or through work sent home. It has been the decision by the administration and board of education to not utilize this opportunity because of our philosophical belief that the most beneficial educational day for students is them being in school with their teacher. Blended learning definitely has its place in the way students learn today and we as educators need to take hold of this and allow students to facilitate their own learning. I am not saying that E-Days are **never** a possibility at Marion Local, but until this can be structured well enough that it doesn't become a worksheet and homework nightmare for parents our plan is to make up all time missed physically at school.

Finally, I want to congratulate our winter sports teams for an outstanding season, and thank them for their hard work in representing Marion Local as respectable student athletes. I want to also thank our community for their great support and join me as we welcome in the spring sports season by cheering on our Flyers!



### SPIRITUAL CENTER

*Robin Goettemoeller*

Lots of things are going on at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein this Spring. Stop and check out our newly remodeled conference room and hear Dr. John Wood present "Ordinary Lives: Extraordinary Mission", **Sunday, April 13 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.** Dr. Wood talks about how becoming a Saint is a choice, and we must begin choosing the saint inside of us. He says "The world doesn't need another John Paul II or Mother Teresa. The world needs you! Your ordinary life has an extraordinary purpose!" Join us for this awesome afternoon with Dr. John Wood on Sunday, April 13.

Things are happening outside too! Trees have been cut down, the snow is finally gone, things are starting to turn green, and more and more people are starting to walk around the paths of the Spiritual Center again. This means that now we have to clean up from old man winter! The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein will be hosting it's annual "Yard Work Volunteer Day" on Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-3:00. Grab your gloves and rake and please join us for this fun day. The annual "Kids for Christ" retreats will take place for youths in grades K-4 on Thursdays July 10, 17, 24 & 31 from 10:00-3:00. Both of these events are great service opportunities for Confirmation candidates. Call 419-925-7625 for more information or to register for events.



### MCDO 301 CLUB RECREATION COMMITTEE

*Kirk Stucke President*

#### 301 Club Weekly Winners

- January 5: Don & Annie Albers
- January 12: Art & Rosemary Prenger
- January 19: Randy & Joann Heitkamp
- January 26: Joe & Jean Bender
- February 2: Steve & Mary Beth Rosenbeck
- February 9: Kevin & Lona Mescher
- February 16: Louie & Deb Heitkamp
- February 23: Dennis & Viola Mescher
- March 2: Kevin & Angie Otte
- March 9: Glenn & Mary Jo Schwieterman
- March 16: Gary & Pam Depweg
- March 23: Dan & Chris Kramer
- March 30: Mike & Maria Rethman

# 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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