



MCDO

Marion Community Development Organization

SUMMER 2014—QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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
Shannon Everman, Secretary	419-925-5707
Jean Bender	419-925-4254
Elaine Pierron	419-925-5704
Coordinator	
Jim Keller	419-925-4764

Committee Chairpersons

Agricultural Development:	
Mark Hardesty, DVM	419-925-4212
Business Retention & Dev.:	
Tony Kaiser	419-582-2681
Health, Safety & Education:	
Elaine Wolters	419-925-4620
Housing:	
Bob Unrast	419-925-4151
Infrastructure:	
Open	
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 UPDATE

Jim Keller, President

AGRICULTURE—ML Ag Ed: The recently held State FFA Convention was attended by 27 Marion Local students. Many parents and members of the administration attended as well. Three students placed first in the Supervised Work Experience (SAE) competition. The Ag Ed Boosters are working with Ag coordinator Lucy Bambauer on a couple of projects. They are funding a gate to a garden the students are planting in land just south of the campus and they are assisting with Pork Stand staffing at the fair. The boosters also continue to investigate the feasibility of adding a greenhouse or building which would enhance the learning experience of several Ag classes. The students will be operating concession stands at a State Plowing Match which will be held at Kevin Homan's farm and at an upcoming Manure Field day being hosted by Mercer County Soil and Water.

COMMUNITY REPORT – Industrial Park: On April 17th the MCDO closed on a short term loan with the Osgood State bank. This loan provided funds to purchase 22.7 acres from Pat and Nancy Nieberding. The purchase was finalized on May 7. The division of the parcel into ten (10) industrial/business lots has been finalized. Jared Ebbing with Mercer County Development put together a financial package which will pay for the required infrastructure; site preparation, streets, and storm and sanitary sewer. A contract for this site work has been awarded to Saintignon Excavating Co. They plan to start by early July. On June 11, the MCDO closed on four (4) of the lots. Buyers were Elizabeth Huelsman, MTI Enterprises Limited and Dan Heitkamp. Signed agreements

are in place with buyers for an additional four (4) lots with a couple of perspective buyers expressing interest in the final two.

We the MCDO are extremely grateful to the individuals who provided great initiative and creativity to make this all happen. The Township Trustees engaged the services of Ron Puthoff with Community Development Services to coordinate the entire project. Ron sought help from Jared Ebbing with the county and we the MCDO. Sincere thanks to all these people who successfully worked through numerous hurdles to finalize this welcome outcome. They did well. Special thanks goes out to the Nieberdings who were willing to sell the land at a very fair price. Their "community spirit" sets a great example for us all. Great "community support" is reflected by those purchasing the lots. Without their belief in the future of our community none of this could have taken place. Sometime later this summer, after additional lot sales have been finalized we plan to gather all the people, including the new owners, who made this possible, for a ceremony of some sort celebrating this accomplishment. The Daily Standard will print an article covering the event if we provide a photo and a description of what occurred.

Chickasaw Water: At the June 9th meeting Roberta Acosta with the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) advised that a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) will be required before the village can apply for grants and funding for additional wells, a new water tower, and other related infrastructure. The committee must now determine a method of paying for the PER. Al Lochtefeld, President of the Chickasaw Board of Public Affairs (BPA) is coordinating the project. I'm attending the meetings and assisting Al with some of the grant applications.

Business Milestones: I represented the MCDO at two functions recently held by local businesses celebrating significant milestones. On June 4th, Chickasaw Garage held an open house to celebrate 80 years of business. Leugers Insurance hosted a "business after hours" event on June 10 to celebrate 100 years of business. These organizations have both served our community well, are rightfully proud of their accomplishments and have worked hard to earn and keep our business. Both are recipients of MCDO's Distinguished Developer Award. Congratulations to them. Job well done!

NKTELco: Preston Meyer sends his apologies for the delays incurred in the installation their infrastructure. The severe winter weather and shipment bottlenecks for special sized fiber optic cable are the culprits. The cable is now due to be shipped on June 19th. Once received, the contractor is standing by to install it. Some cable needs to be installed underground and all of it needs to be terminated in NKTELco's communications' hut just north of the Korner Kafe. If everything unfolds as planned they hope to start marketing their services

in late August in the Maria Stein area. Preston was apprehensive about giving a firm date since unforeseen delays have plagued the project and might to do so again.

Awards Banquet: Thanks to everyone who showed their support for our Marion Community by attending our March 30, 2014 Annual Awards Banquet and Community Address. We had a really nice turnout and Keith Westrick did a fabulous job sharing his story of what a great place the Marion Community is to live and raise a family. Congratulations again to Chickasaw Garage and Ohio Production Paint and Assembly Corporation (OPPAC), recipients of the MCDO's 2014 Distinguished Developer Awards.

New Faces: Tony Kaiser joined us at our May meeting as the new Business Retention and Development Chairperson. Tony is the President of Osgood State Bank, and he, his wife and three children reside in Coldwater. Shannon Everman who is replacing Barb Kahlig also joined us. Shannon, Craig and their four children live here in Maria Stein. Barb worked with Shannon to convey the knowledge and information required to successfully perform the tasks of the MCDO. The MCDO is fortunate to have these two very educated, accomplished individuals join our team. We also wish Barb Kahlig all the best in her new appointment as the Secretary of Marion Local Schools. She did a great job as our administrator for many years. Thanks Barb!!

Athletic & Band Boosters: Because of our intense involvement in the creation of the Ag Ed program here at Marion Local we have been publishing updates in our minutes and quarterly newsletters about the boosters and their activities. I realize that we have two other very active and crucial booster groups: the athletic and band folks. If either of you have news or updates you would like to share with the entire Marion Local community please contact me direct at (419) 925-4764 or mcdo@roadrunner.com. We will be happy to accommodate you especially in this quarterly newsletter which reaches over 1,400 households and businesses in our community.

Website: The MCDO has contracted with Shelly Bohman and Graphics Communications here in Maria Stein to design and implement a new Marion Communities website. The site will have a new look, be much easier to navigate and most importantly be easy to update. It is amazing how much changes, even in a community like ours, which to an outside viewer might look pretty static. We will be calling all the local businesses, park and town councils to get current accurate information for the site. If you have a business and are not sure that it is on the site, or if you have some community info you think should be included, please contact me: (419) 925-4764 or mcdo@roadrunner.com.

Membership: We deeply appreciate the Business and Family Members who have given us support over the years. Your support and that of the local banks, villages, and Township Trustees are vital to the continuation of our mission in this community. If you would like to become a member, please contact mcdo@bright.net or submit the attached form.



SPIRITUAL CENTER

Robin Goettemoeller

The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, 2365 St. Johns Road, along with Northern Network Youth Ministers, will be hosting the 2nd Annual "Sanctus" outdoor concert on Sunday, August 10th. Musical artists include the Jacob and Matthew Band, Ike Ndolo, and Marie Miller. The gates will open at 4:00 p.m. and the show starts at 6:00 p.m. Last year there were over 850 participants at this outdoor Christian Concert and we are hoping there will be even more this year! Food and drinks will be sold on the grounds of the Spiritual Center-coolers are prohibited. Tickets can be purchased online at www.itickets.com – presale tickets are \$20 or tickets can be purchased at the gate the day of the event for \$25. Bring your lawn chairs or a blanket, your friends and family and join us for a night of great music and fun! Contact any area youth minister for more information or call Robin Goettemoeller at the Spiritual Center at 419-925-7625.

SHRINE OF THE HOLY RELICS

Tess Mescher

The Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics and Pilgrim Gift Shop are open seven days a week with scheduled activities and opportunity for private prayer and adoration.

Daily Tours of the Shrine are offered Tuesday thru Friday at 10:00am to 11:30am.

Custom Tours & Pilgrimages are available daily year round and designed to meet your interests, group size and time frame. Call Anne at 419-925-4532.

Mid-Day Prayer Monday thru Friday at 11:45 to noon in the Adoration Chapel

Eucharistic Adoration Tue, Wed. & Thur. from 1:00pm – 5:00pm in the Adoration Chapel

Weekly Mass at 11:30am Saturdays with **Confession** from 11:00am-11:25am and **Rosary** at 11:08am.

Family Eucharistic Adoration 3rd Sunday of each month from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Adoration for adults in Adoration Chapel and Children's Adoration in Reading Room with group leaders.

On September 21st the annual **Heritage Club** kick-off party will be held from 1:00pm – 4:00pm at the Shrine with various tours, refreshments, games, cards, and new 3rd floor historical exhibit exclusive to Heritage Club members on September 21st. The Heritage Club is the Shrine's annual effort to raise funds for the daily operations of the Shrine. It is easy to become a Heritage Club member – purchase a \$25 ticket and be entered into the weekly drawing for \$50 and the \$1,000 grand prize to be drawn at 4:00pm on September 21st. Current Heritage Club members will receive tickets in the mail. New members are welcome, for tickets please stop in at the Shrine or call to have tickets mailed to you.

The Pilgrim Gift Shop continually receives new merchandise with a large variety of items suitable for all life events. Recently a large selection of outdoor cement statues went on display as did

Spiral Intention Candles. Delicious Mother Brunner artisan bread arrives fresh each weekend in three flavors: Healthy Blend, Whole Wheat and Hearth Blend. The Gift Shop has a large variety of unique memorial gifts at various price points and offers timely delivery to local funeral homes.

Shrine & Gift Shop hours: Monday thru Thursday 9:30 – 6:00; Friday & Saturday 9:30 – 4:00 and Sunday noon to 4:00. Closed major holidays. www.mariasteinshrine.org and like us on FACEBOOK.



MARION LOCAL SCHOOL NEWS

Mike Pohlman, Superintendent

It was an outstanding 2013-2014 school year, as our district was blessed again with numerous accomplishments by both our staff and students. I would like to congratulate all of them for their successes throughout the year. Congratulations to all of our 75 graduates who participated in commencement ceremonies on May 18th. Olivia Hemmelgarn was named valedictorian and Courtney Albers and Marissa Spoltman were named co-salutatorian. Of the 75 graduates twenty-six received Honors Diplomas, twenty-five received the President's Award for Academic Excellence, twenty-seven scored a composite score of 27 or higher on the ACT, and they earned \$1,101,210 in scholarship money. We are very proud of our graduates and their accomplishments and thank all of the donors that sponsored scholarships to help these individuals further their education.

I would like to congratulate Gene Evers, Lucy Moeller, and Jean Giere as they announced their retirements at the end of this school year. We appreciate the hard work and dedication from these individuals and what they have done for the students in this community. Many people can reflect on the memories they have and how their lives were touched by these people. These individuals received recognition at our appreciation luncheon to commemorate this milestone. Gene has decided to stay on as a bus driver and will be recommended to the board of education for hire even though he announced his retirement. Lucy Moeller also received the MLEA "Friend of Education" award for her dedication to helping teachers over the years. I would like to thank our entire staff for their efforts over the 2013-2014 school year.

At the end of June marks our completion of our Race to the Top initiative that we have worked on for the past four years. We have seen a lot of change in these past years and hope to build on these as we progress in the future. Change is always difficult and I appreciate our staff and students adjusting and being flexible during the past four years.

Even though school is out, it will still be very busy at both schools during the break. I would like to thank the community for their continued support of the Marion Local school district. This year was very successful and it is because of the collaboration we have with you. Mandatory shutdown this year is June 28th to July 12th. I hope you have an enjoyable and safe summer.

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: _____

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