

Marion Community Development Organization

Summer 2015



Inside this issue:

Marion Local Schools 2

Spiritual Center 2

Maria Stein Shrine 3

Marion Township Park 3

President's Message

COMMUNITY REPORT – Industrial Park: Saintignon is replacing the top soil in the new Industrial Park area. Once the top soil is replaced and leveled, the lots will be ready for building. Midwest Electric is installing street lights and infrastructure to provide electricity to the area. NKTelco has infrastructure to 75% of the lots. Recent heavy rains have delayed progress for all the contractors. At least three firms: Prenger's Inc. (Prenger's provides equipment and service to dairy farmers), Klosterman Concrete, and Buschur's Custom Farm Service, Inc. all plan to build facilities yet this summer and fall. We are pleased with the initiative of these businesses and welcome them to the Marion Industrial Park.

We continue to receive inquiries from businesses interested in Industrial Park and other commercial space.

Residential Housing : Interest in residential building space also remains high. Options for land are limited but the MCDO is actively exploring ideas that may provide some building acreage. Having young families who are keenly interested in moving here is most rewarding. Speaks well for the culture we've established. These young folks will most certainly keep the community robust, vibrant, dynamic and growing for many decades ahead.

Chickasaw Water: The Water Planning Committee continues to seek funding for the project. A major challenge is getting multiple, diverse government entities to simultaneously provide funds.

NKTelco: NKTelco continues with installation in the Maria Stein area with their current focus being in Chapel Hill. As is the case in the Industrial Park, these June rains have held up progress. Considering the weather and technical delays they have experienced in the Maria Stein area installation, the company is not making projections as to when they will be expanding into Chickasaw and Osgood. They will have a booth at the Country Fest so visit them there and they will answer any questions you may have.

Annual Awards Banquet: The banquet went very well. The event was well attended. Many attendees commented that keynote speaker Milt Miller did a great job speaking about the approaches being taken to address the environmental issues at Grand Lake. Our 2015 Distinguished Developer Award recipients, Maria Stein Family Practice and Huelsman Automotive thanked the community for the support the community has given them for many years. Both of these businesses have been serving our area for a long time and both reflect the continuity of service and relationships that make our community a great place to live and do business.

AGRICULTURE - ML Ag Ed: The Ag Ed Boosters were introduced to the new Ag Ed teacher Matt Elsass at their June 15th meeting. An Ohio State grad, Matt grew up on a farm, attended Anna High School and has three years of teaching experience. He made a great first impression on all of the meeting attendees and it appears that our program is in good hands. The boosters and the FFA have the opportunity to facilitate the dairy stand at the Mercer County Fair. This could be a great fundraiser for these organizations. The boosters continue to be involved in the Marion Local facilities project with an Ag learning facility a high priority. The FFA students have planted a garden and produce will be available for a free will offering. Excess produce will be donated to the Food Pantry. The students did a fantastic job hosting and conducting the March 26th FFA banquet.

All are welcome at the monthly Ag Ed Boosters meeting which is held at 8pm on the third Monday of the month in the Marion Local Ag Ed classroom. The minutes of the Ag Ed Booster meetings are posted on the Marion Communities Website <http://www.marioncommunities.com/ag-ed-boosters.htm>.

Thanks to all of the many individuals and businesses who are MCDO members. Bob Dippold our volunteer membership chairperson is doing a great job soliciting members so a big shout-out and thank you to Bob!

Marion Local Schools—Mike Pohlman

It was a very successful 2014-2015 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 65 graduates who participated in commencement ceremonies on May 17th. Melinda Meiring was named valedictorian and Allie Thobe was named salutatorian. Of the 65 graduates seventeen received Honors Diplomas, thirteen received the President's Award for Academic Excellence, twelve scored a composite score of 27 or higher on the ACT, and they earned \$617,050 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 Ron Brunswick, Jane Heiby, Randy Bruns, Randy Jutte, and Bonnie McFarland 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 of these retirees and how their lives were touched by these people. These individuals received recognition at our appreciation luncheon to commemorate this milestone. Joe Thobe received the MLEA "Friend of Education" award for his dedication and service to helping the staff and students over the years. I would like to thank our entire staff for their efforts over the 2014-2015 school year.

Recently our "Facility Committee" met and during the May Board of Education meeting made a recommendation to seek an architect for the purpose of having a feasibility study completed. A feasibility study will allow us to develop short and long term goals for our campus, realize the life expectancy of our buildings, check for suitable locations for future

building, and many other options in order for us to make good sound decisions on our facilities. Very frequently we have heard from our community that we need to have a vision for these facilities and a feasibility study is a good investment to ensure the correct decisions are made. I also want to make our community aware that we will be beginning the renovation of our football press box. The press box project was well in progress before we started meeting for the facility study. The main reason this is being completed is due to the liability of student film crew, staff, and media representatives climbing up the outside ladder to get on the second floor. We will be adding a second floor with internal steps for safety reasons and this project will be funded 50/50 by the Marion Local Athletic Boosters and Marion Local Board of Education.

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.

Spiritual Center—Robin Goettemoeller

On Sunday, August 9th, there will be a special day of Bicentennial celebration called Jubilation celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Precious Blood! This is a day of praise and service for youth and their families at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein and the Shrine of the Holy Relics and all are welcome! It will begin at 1:00 p.m. and conclude with an outdoor

mass and fireworks at 9:00 p.m. Come for the whole day or just part of the day—but don't miss this one time event! There will be something for everyone throughout the day: Life size foosball, games, jumpy houses, Eucharistic Adoration, Sacrament of Reconciliation, inspiring talks, service projects, blood drive, and music by local groups. Local youth

groups will have food booths, drinks, and snacks for sale. At 5:30 p.m. recording artists Marie Mille and L'Angelus will take the stage and perform an outdoor concert. At 7:30 p.m., there will be Mass with Bishop Joseph Binzer presiding and Fr. Gene Schnipke, CPPS preaching. Following Mass, there will be an awesome fireworks show presented by Legendary



Entertainment Productions. The cost of admission is a canned food item that will be donated to the local food pantries. We hope you join us and will help us celebrate Jubilation August 9th!!! Call the Spiritual Center at 419-925-7625 or visit www.spiritualcenter.net for more information.

Maria Stein Shrine—Don Rosenbeck

Daily Tours and Custom Pilgrimages at the Maria Stein Shrine

The Maria Stein Shrine has been welcoming visitors from near and far these past few weeks, visitors from surrounding parishes as well as visitors from states of Illinois, Texas and Colorado and beyond.

Recently, program director, Anne McGuire offered a tour guide training/refresher for several staff and volunteers to guide the Daily Tours available on Tuesdays thru Fridays at 10:00am. These tours

last approximately 90 minutes but can be tailored according to the visitor's desires. Custom tours and pilgrimages may also be arranged throughout the week/weekend and outside normal Shrine hours according to visitor's interests and availability by contacting Anne at 419-925-4532.

There is a lot to do at the Shrine! We welcome you to stop by for a visit to the newly renovated Heritage Museum which reopened late June, spend time in the

chapels, visit the gift shop and discover the beautiful and peaceful courtyard, gardens and chapel in the woods.

The Shrine is open seven days a week: Mon – Thurs 9:30-6:00; Friday & Saturday 9:30 to 4:00 and Sunday noon to 4:00. For further information call 419 -925-4532 and remember to like us on Facebook!!



Marion Township Park—Ron Hartings

Marion Township Park Board meets monthly, which is typically the 3rd week of the month. We continue to focus on improving and maintaining the park for our community. Your continued support is appreciated throughout the year!

We thoroughly appreciate the help from those in our community through your attendance and patronage at the Countryfest recently.

The next fundraiser is the Marion Alumni Tourney set for July 24th-26th. This will be held at Marion Township Park. To enter a softball team, contact Ryan Stucke at 419-852-5088 and for volleyball, contact Diane Alexander via Facebook message. Entertainment for the weekend includes: Free Lance on Friday night and a DJ on Saturday night. We thank you for your support of the park through this event as well.

As always, there are still monthly drawing tickets available. If you are interested in being added, please send \$30 donation to: Marion Township Park, PO Box 12, Maria Stein, OH 45860. \$50, \$30, & 2- \$25 prizes are drawn monthly as well as the drawing at the annual soup appreciation party in August where \$200, \$100, and \$50 in prizes are drawn.

Current projects include items for insurance compliance as well as maintenance as mentioned in the previous newsletter. These items are again, listed below. We are beginning to see work on the bleachers for the Eagle Scout project. The planks for picnic tables needing repair have been purchased at a cost of \$1070.

Current Marion Township Park projects include:

- Removal of dead/dying Ash trees (31 already + 10 more needing removal)
 - ◊ Grinding of stumps – estimated at ~\$2000 (stump grinding only)
- Reconditioning of diamond #3 & fixing of pitcher's mound/home plate areas of diamonds #2 & #4 – anticipated costs in range of ~\$5,000-\$7,000
- Insurance compliance items:
 - ◊ Back stops and closing in of bleachers to meet new requirements – anticipated for material only at ~\$5,000
 - Reid Moeller will be painting and installing these for his Eagle Scout project
 - ◊ Mulch of playground/swing areas with specifically required grade of mulch for this purpose – anticipated cost of ~\$5,100
- Replacing of un-repairable planks for picnic tables chewed/damaged by squirrels
 - ◊ 17 in 2014 at cost of ~\$100 per plank
 - ◊ Need to repair approximately 10 more in 2015 – cost \$1070
- Ongoing maintenance such as fertilizer and utilities

Ideas for future projects or donations:

We would love to continue to build upon what has been developed so far for use by our community.

- At this time, there is need for replacement of many of the lost Ash trees after stump grinding is able to be completed.
- There has also been discussion about a possible future dream of building a pavilion-type shelter house. Fundraising for such a project would require a great commitment, but provide larger area of covered seating in the open area between the parking lot and concession stand for future events.
- Another large commitment project would be to add additional parking base in the grass along the drive into the current parking lot.

These projects are all ideas that have been discussed for if and when any funds or commitment become available. There are just not funds to consider this currently.

If you have suggestions for the park's future, we welcome those discussions. Current Park Board Members include: Ron Hartings (President – 937-638-0534), Eric Schroeder (Eagle Scout project manager – 419-296-8570 - ***If you are a scout looking for a project, there has been some discussion about possible projects. Please contact.***), Nancy Billerman (419-733-8668), Keith Pohlmann (rentals – 567-644-5818), Shelly Bruns (Treasurer – 419-305-8940), & Shelly Hartings (Secretary/Concessions stand 419-953-2569). If you have any comments or concerns, please feel free to contact.

Marion Community Development Organization (MCDO)

Primary Business Address
PO Box 65
Maria Stein, OH 45860

Phone: 419-925-4764
E-mail: admin@marioncommunities.com
www.marioncommunities.com

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 .

2015 Board of Directors

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

Coordinator

Jim Keller	419-925-4764
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Committee Chairpersons

Agricultural Development:

Mark Hardesty, DVM	419-925-4212
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Business Retention & Dev.:

Tony Kaiser	419-582-2681
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Health, Safety & Education:

Elaine Wolters	419-925-4620
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Housing:

Bob Unrast	419-925-4151
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Infrastructure:

Open

Land Use:

Open

Membership:

Bob Dippold	419-305-0128
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Recreation:

Kirk Stucke	419-733-6261
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