

Marion Community Development Organization—Spring 2016



President's Message—Jim Keller

INDUSTRIAL PARK: Business construction continues at a steady pace in the Marion Industrial park. Having so many businesses building in our recently developed industrial park addition is most rewarding. The entire community extends a heartfelt "Thank You" to the folks who are making this significant investment in our area.

PRE-SCHOOL: In our Winter 2015 newsletter we discussed some challenges facing our Chapel Hill Preschool. To determine the communities input, the Preschool sent a survey to the parents for feedback of the program's operations. The survey results were very positive and due to the feedback received, the **class times for the 2016/2017 School Year will be changed to 8:15am – 11:15am for the AM Preschool and 12:15pm – 3:15 pm for the PM Preschool.** Visit www.marioncommunities.com and click on "What's New!" for more information.

AGRICULTURE: We have good news on the Ag front. The County Commissioners have hired Theresa Dirksen as the full time Ag Solutions Coordinator to work with agricultural producers in the county. Starting March 28, she will continue the mission of Ag Solutions in seeking effective solutions to the environmental issues impacting the lake. The MCDO and I will be phasing out of our involvement. Theresa, a Marion Community resident, is an impressive individual, with the needed knowledge, experience, education (Professional Engineer) and passion for this job. Please join the MCDO in wishing her all the best in her new assignment!

Our Marion Local Ag Education program continues to thrive. The FFA students held their annual banquet on Monday March 14. They conduct all the proceedings in a most professional manner. I am always impressed.

Marion Local Schools—Mike Pohlman We are entering the final nine weeks of the school year and students are eager to head down the homestretch as we continue to provide them with valuable educational experiences. We recently received our district report card from the state of Ohio. I would like to explain why we received an achievement grade of a "D" and also a "B". This grade is derived from how well our students score on state assessments. This past year we had many students opt out from taking assessments and the state counted that as a score of zero. As you are well aware a score of zero can bring a districts achievement score down, but after legislators met with the Ohio Department of Education it was decided to report a modified achievement score that didn't count students who opted out. I appreciate the efforts from legislators and would like to recognize Representative Jim Buchy for his support in communicating Marion Local's performance index score which more truly reflects how we are achieving as a district. Administrators in Mercer County decided to develop our own "Quality Profile" that is a more user friendly report of how our schools are performing. I invite everyone to view this report through this interactive link which can be found at <http://tristar.graphics/2016-mtm> or under "recent announcements" at www.marionlocal.org.

I recently joined a group of over 35 local superintendents in our area and we formed a committee called the Northwest/West Central Ohio Public School Advocacy Network. This grew from concerns over a loss of local control in public education. The group believes there are many areas within public education where if local control was restored, it would improve education and benefit schools and students. The group believes that locally-controlled public education with governmental support is valued instead of public education dominated by government regulations. School officials, board members, teachers, students and parents should have majority say about the direction of their own school districts. The first initiative of the network is to survey people about public education. The survey will be active until April 15th and can be found under "recent announcements" at www.marionlocal.org or you can go directly to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8F5K2W8>. The survey should only take 5 minutes and please feel free to share this with other Marion Local community members.

I would like to congratulate our winter athletic teams, Band, FFA, and Scholastic Bowl for their success and encourage Flyer fans to come out and support our spring events as our teams and organizations prepare for their season. Go Flyers!

301 Club—Cory Albers The 301 Club hosted their Appreciation Party at the Maria Stein Legion on Friday, January 15 after a home boys' basketball game. Food and beverages were provided for all members and their families. The winners from the Appreciation Party: **\$25 Early Pay Winners:** Craig & Shannon Everman, Alan & Nancy Winner, Randy & Linda Bergman, Bill & Donna Elking. **Free Membership:** Greg Heitkamp. **Cash Winners:** \$301 – Bob & Katie Dippold, \$100 – Rob & Jacklyn Kemper, \$50 – Joe & Jean Bender.

Gift Certificate Winners

Maria Stein Legion Bar: Alan & Nancy Winner, Gary & Beth Fortkamp, Walter Braun

Scott's Carryout: Joe & Renee Hartings, Kyle & Cara Unrast, Herb & Linda Ranly

Chickasaw Quik Stop: Craig & Amy Knapke, Mike & Teresa Bohman, Craig & Melissa Riethman

Winner's Meats: Louis & Joan Bohman, Joe & Jean Puthoff, Sam & Tina Thobe

Town Tavern: Aaron & Kendra Rose, Dale & Kate Knapke, Pat & June Moeller

Moeller Brew Barn: Craig & Holly Wolters, Jason & Becky Ranly, Jared & Caroline Ranly

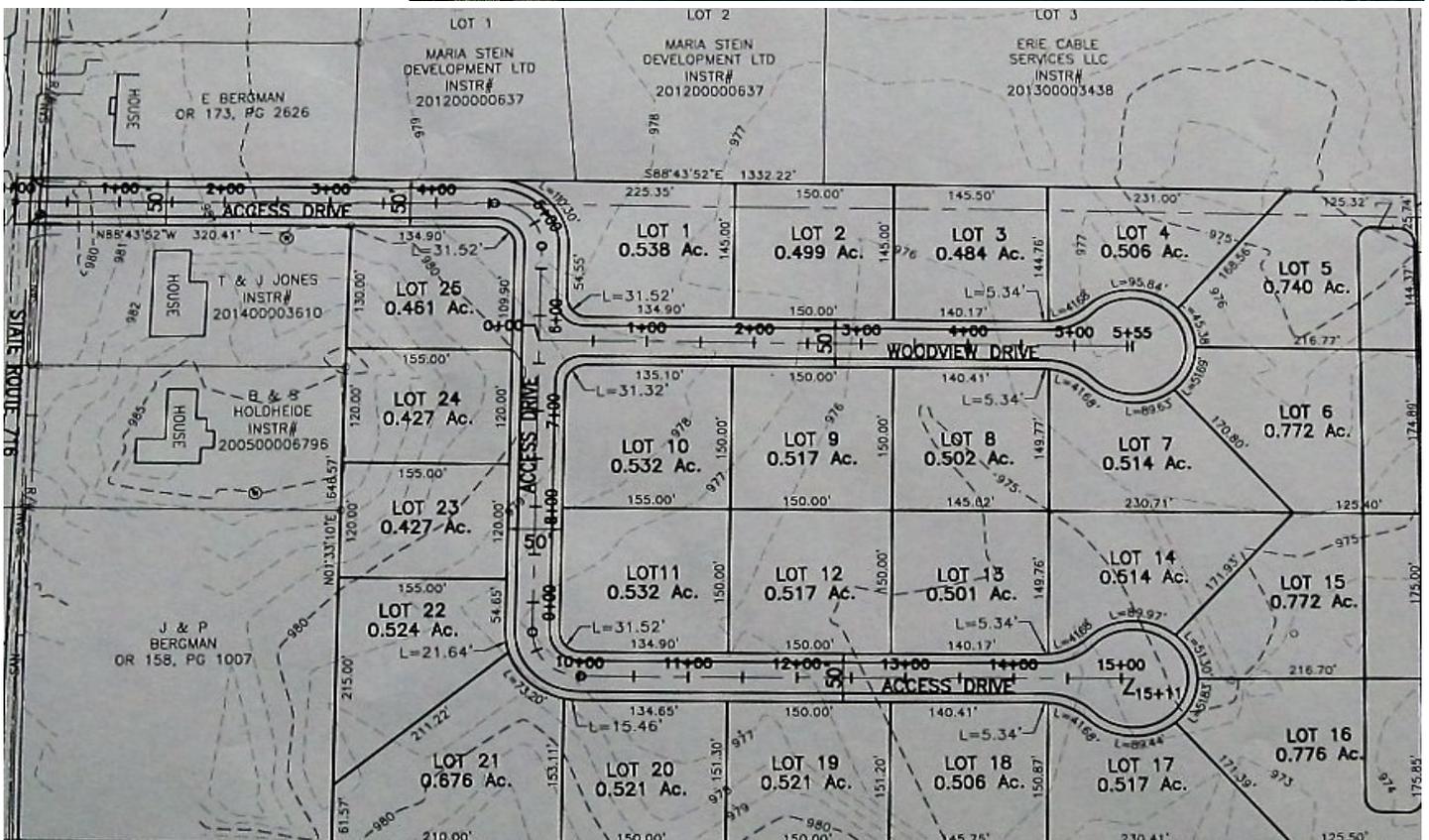
Korner Kafe: Gary & Carol Hartings, Allen & Teri Spoltman, Randy & Jackie Winner

As always, we have to thank all of the businesses who help our cause by donating a gift certificate each. We also thank all of our members for your continued support of not only our organization, but your support of our youth programs in the Marion Community. If anyone would like to join the 301 Club, please talk with Cory Albers or any other 301 Club member.

Residential Housing Updates:

Marion Acres (right)—These lots across, from the high school, can be acquired by calling Randy Bruns with Rockford Construction - (419) 586-9367.

Woodview Estates Subdivision (below)—We're happy to welcome Rapid Development to the community. They are developing 25 lots just south of Marion Acres. Call Jay Ruhenkamp - (937) 295-4244 to inquire about one of these lots.



Marion Township Park—Ron Hartings

The Park Board of Marion Township Park meets monthly. We continue to focus on improving and maintaining the park for our community. Fundraisers help support the park improvements and maintenance since we are not funded by a municipality. We thoroughly appreciate the help from those in our community through your attendance and patronage at events and continued donations throughout the year!

We have now updated to a new page on [Facebook \(Marion Township Park\)](#) and are on [Twitter \(@MarionTwpPark\)](#). Please follow us for listings of future events and details... One of which is posted already for the dates of the Marion Alumni Tournament, which the committee is excited to plan for and encourages those of all ages to come. You can also contact us through email: mariontwpark@gmail.com.

In the spring/summer, we have community softball and baseball events for our youth that we provide the service of a concession stand. For these, *we are looking for tweens or teens interested in earning a donation for their work in the concession stand.* They would be placed on a schedule for these events mainly in May and June. If you have a responsible son or daughter who may be interest-

ed, *please contact Shelly Hartings at mdhartings@gmail.com.*

We will continue to search for funds to replace the Ash trees in the park at an estimate of approximately \$8,000. Anyone willing to donate to this, please contact us.

We also have an Eagle Scout project by Tim Knapschafer in process to raise and complete electrical for the scoreboard purchased from the school. It will be for use on the Pony League diamond. Costs of approximately \$4500 will be incurred by the Park Board with donated labor.

The Shrine's chapel in the park was in need of structural work and siding repair. Labor was donated to and is in process of being completed by the Shrine of which we supported material costs of approximately \$500 as it is located in the park.

Looking ahead...We have had discussions and considered community suggestions for future ideas for the park. Many factors go into major projects as well as funding that must be raised. Applications for grant money are considered and come with a substantial local responsibility (40-50%). Because we are not a part of a municipality, all of this is raised through fundraising efforts/donations in addition to maintaining what we currently have. We continue to consider options for future projects that may be feasible.

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, Nancy Billerman (419-733-8668), Keith Pohlmann (rentals - 567-644-5818), Shelly Bruns (Treasurer - 419-305-8940), Nick "Shaggy" Pavelka (social media/email coordinator 419-852-3858) & Shelly Hartings (Secretary/Concessions stand 419-953-2569). Please feel free to contact.



2291 St. Johns Rd.
Maria Stein, OH 45860
419-925-4532

Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics

Courtyard rosary

SATURDAY, MAY 7th

For Adults and Children of all ages
Spend the afternoon honoring Mary, in the Courtyard at the Shrine
(Inclement weather location: Adoration Chapel)
12:30 Soup Lunch
\$5.00 adult \$3.00 child 12 & under Donation
Advance Tickets only
may be purchased at the Shrine or by phone: 419-925-4532

1:30 Courtyard Rosary
ample seating for all ages for the recitation of the Joyful Mysteries involving Holy Rosary staff and students

2:00 Mother's Day Craft

ROSARY DECADE PATH OF PRAYERS
Place your prayers on a decade of Rosary Beads to be placed along a path throughout the Shrine Courtyard and grounds from May 7th to June 20th. The sign measures 12" x 18" displaying prayer intentions - such as: for the unborn, safe travel, strengthened faith, etc.

Donation of \$15.00 per decade

Return the prayer requests below with payment to: Maria Stein Prayer Beads
2291 St. Johns Rd., Maria Stein, OH 45860

Name: _____
Phone: _____ Address: _____

INTENTION: _____
INTENTION: _____
INTENTION: _____

The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein Presents...

New Format!!!

Kids For Christ

Tuesday, June 14 10:00-2:00
Wednesday, June 15 10:00-2:00
Thursday, June 16 10:00-2:00

\$40 Per camper

For youth in grades 1-5

Each day will include:

- Saint of the Day
- Virtue of the Day
- Crafts
- Snacks
- Lunch
- Prayer
- Guest Speakers
- Activity/Games
- Faith and FUN!!!!!!

CATHLETICS!
TRAINING TO BE CHAMPIONS FOR CHRIST

Just as it takes hard work to train for the Olympics, it's also important to get the right training to live out our faith! In this sports-themed Kids for Christ, youth will become engaged into the LIFE OF CHRIST with teachings from God's Word on the Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

What's provided?
Lunch daily
Snacks
T-Shirt
Drawstring Bag
Program Supplies

Questions?
Phone: 419-925-7625
E-mail: robin@spiritualcenter.net

Return this portion with payment by June 6 to:

The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein
PO Box 95
Maria Stein, OH 45860

Waiver: My child _____ has permission to attend the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein Kids for Christ Camp June 14-16. I understand that reasonable precautions will be taken to safeguard the health and well being of the participants and that I will be notified as soon as possible in the event of an emergency. I hereby release and forever discharge the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein from all manners of actions or claims which I or the child named above shall, or may have for any reason, arising during my child's attendance of Kids for Christ. Unless other written instruction is submitted, I also consent to allowing my child's image to be recorded, either by photograph or video, and used during the week for future advertisement of Kids for Christ. Any other use will require further consent.

Name of youth attending camp _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Parents Name _____ Emergency Contact Person & Phone Number _____

Day Time Phone Number _____ Allergies or Medical Condition _____

T-Shirt Sizes: Youth XS S M L XL Adult XS S M L XL Parent E-Mail Address _____

Age & Grade Completed _____

Have questions? Call us at 419-925-7625 or email robin@spiritualcenter.net

Zahn Marion Library—Juli Berning

Have you been in the library lately? We're more than just books. We have a book club group that is held the first Tuesday of every month beginning at 7 pm. Anyone can check out the book that is being read for the month and come join in the discussion. Family nights are held the second Tuesday of every month (except August) at 6:30. Children of all ages and their families are welcome to come and enjoy stories, a short movie and a craft. Don't forget story hour every Thursday morning at 10:30 am and every Thursday afternoon beginning at 1:30 anyone can come and enjoy an afternoon of card playing and socializing. Do you love to do jigsaw puzzles? Come and borrow a puzzle from our puzzle exchange room. If you have any puzzles (from 200 to 1,500 pieces) that need a new home you can also donate them to our program. We are now also offering ancestry.com (library edition) on our library computers. Come in and look up your family tree or any information you need to fill in your family's genealogy. ABCmouse.com is on our kid size computer station in the children's section of our library. These three computers offer online learning for children ages 2-7+. In a hurry and need some books for your kids? Try our new book bundles. Three to five books are packaged by topics (tractors, princesses, etc.), take the bag to the front desk, check out and enjoy!

A new program we are now offering is 1000 books before Kindergarten. We invite all parents with children who have not yet started kindergarten to take up the challenge to build lifelong learners as you bond through books with this fun and easy program. Just stop in the library, register your child and track your reading on a paper that we give you. You can read library books or your books and count them each time they are read. Every time your child reads a100 books they receive a small prize. At 1000 books they receive a certificate and a free book. Stop in or call today for more information.

Upcoming programs—Money Smart Week is April 23-30. We are having Osgood State Bank come in on Tuesday, April 26th to present two programs. The first program is for adults and will cover identity theft, online banking and bill pay and the second program is for children ages 2 thru 10 and is titled "Hands on Banking". Both programs will start at 6:30.

Starting the last week of May will be our summer reading program. This year's theme is "On your mark, get set...Read!" Our kickoff program will be on Thursday, June 9th at 1:30 pm and will be "My Plate: The Musical". This will be performed by the Minnetrista Theatre out of Muncie, Indiana. More information will be handed out at school or available in our library starting in late May.

All dates, times and information on all of our upcoming programs are available on our Face book page. Just go to www.facebook.com/ZahnMarionLibrary and "like" our page. So come in to the library today and check us out!



Marion Community Development Organization
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Maria Stein, OH 45860-0065

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