



**President's Message—Jim Keller**

A number of businesses have opened or expanded recently in our community. We've listed them and included photos with captions.

**Moeller Door & Window Sales** – From a 1987 humble start in “downtown” Cassella, Moeller’s has continued to grow. In 1994 they moved to the North West corner of SR 127 & 119. They continued expanding there and in 2013 were awarded MCDO’s Distinguished Developer Award. Just this March 11th, they held a ribbon cutting at a beautiful, new facility on the South West corner of SR 127 & 119. Moeller’s truly does its part to make the Marion Community great providing superior products and service as well as good jobs. Check out the commercials on their website. Some of them are priceless!



**Brick Haus Salon & Spa** – This is another new business in the Marion Community. They had a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Brick Haus purchased a lot in our 2014 Industrial Park expansion and we wish them great success.



**Woods Chapel** – Champions Linda Bergman and Tina Thobe are continuing to make steady progress with the Woods Chapel renovation. Thanks to all the kind benefactors they've collected over \$11,000 for the project.



**Ag Ed Boosters** – The boosters funded the purchase of state-of-the-art microscopes and cameras for Ag Science projects. Our Ag program (like all of Marion Local) continues to perform at excellent levels. On March 21, the FFA hosted their annual banquet; a most impressive event. The ac-

complishments of these young people are amazing and they facilitate the banquet like a well oiled machine. Even more amazing is the fact that were it not for the vision of Dr. Mark Hardesty, our MCDO Ag Committee Chairperson, we would not even have an Ag Ed program at Marion Local. His hard work and persistence back in 2008 and 2009 led to the reinstatement of Ag Ed at ML in the fall of 2010. If you see Mark extend your appreciation.



## *President's Message (continued)*

**W.G. Dairy Supply Inc.** - W.G. is new to the Marion Community setting up business in part of the vacated Moeller Door facility. The MCDO welcomes them and wishes them well.

**MCDO Awards Banquet** – For 21 years, the MCDO has conducted an annual Awards banquet. Our Distinguished Developer Award has been given to many deserving businesses and individuals. This year's recipients, Paul Albers and Ron Hartings continue the tradition of deserving individuals. Both worked decades in community service: Paul, clerk of the Osgood Village Council and Ron, President of the Marion Park board. Both made significant contributions to the accomplishments of the entities they served. Congratulations Paul and Ron.

Hope the New Year has gotten off to a great start for you!

## *Maria Stein Shrine—Don Rosenbeck*

Things are off to a good start in 2017 at Maria Stein Shrine. Our first service of the year, St. Dymphna Prayer Service, was able to provide ministry to over 70 individuals. St. Dymphna is the patron saint of mental illness and epilepsy. Many pray to her for peace and healing in neurological issues and depression. A few weekends later, "Adoration for Life" was celebrated. Mercer County Right to Life led those gathered in the Rosary and there was a talk given on the Church's teaching on life issues. All stages of life, from conception until natural death, were celebrated.

The Lenten Season has brought on several services as well, including A Lenten Series, Seminar on Prayer and Lenten Day of Reflection. The series of Lenten talks focused on life as a journey of conversion, from our baptism to our sharing in the resurrection. Precious Blood Sister Joyce Ann Zimmerman offered a fresh take on the daily practice of prayer in her Seminars on Prayer. Finally, the Lenten day of Reflection offered the chance to reflect more deeply on the salvation won by Christ's saving action on the Cross and the mercy of Christ given in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Perhaps the most popular services held at the Shrine so far this year were the CYO Mass and Farmer's Night at the Shrine.

The CYO mass was held in conjunction with the CYO State Basketball tournament. Approximately 210 individuals attended a Saturday afternoon Mass, celebrated by Fr. Dan Schmitmeyer. A pizza party for the youth followed Mass, which was sponsored by two local businesses, Preferred Insurance of Coldwater and The Knights of Columbus Council #1991.

Furthermore, a prayer service for local Farmer's was held, asking for the intercession of Sts. Isidore and his wife Maria. Several local farmers attended the services, and Brother Nick Rrenner, C.P.P.S. was present to facilitate a Blessing of Soil. The evening concluded with a meet and greet in the museum, followed by socializing in the Gast Gallery. The Legacy Fund Opportunity was presented as well, as details were discussed addressing the future of Maria Stein Shrine, and how local individuals, families and businesses can get involved to ensure continued ministry at the Shrine.

For any questions regarding Maria Stein Shrine, our events, or the Legacy Fund, please feel free to call 419-925-4532, visit our website [www.mariasteinshrine.org](http://www.mariasteinshrine.org), or follow us on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/Maria-Stein-Shrine](https://www.facebook.com/Maria-Stein-Shrine).

## *Marion Local Schools—Mike Pohlman*

The final nine weeks of the school year has quickly approached and students and staff continue to work hard to finish strong for a successful school year. Spring sports activities are underway and end of the year awards banquets are quickly coming upon us. We have made great academic strides this year and we are very thankful for the great support we receive from our community.

We have also made great strides with the construction of our practice band field. The field is located at the south end of the districts property. It will provide a much-needed dedicated space for our band to utilize their talent. Our hope is to not only provide a great practice area but also a place for parking the band trailers and offer space for possible future needs the band may have. The Marion Local Board of Education is completing this project in conjunction with the Marion Local Band Boosters. We are working hard to complete this project both properly and economically. The Boosters are providing great support through completing the irrigation and seeding of the field. It has been great to work together as we provide our "Touch of Class" band a classy facility.

## *Zahn Marion Township Library—Juli Berning*

Here's what's happening at the library. Celebrate "National Library Week" with us April 9<sup>th</sup> thru April 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and library workers and to promote library use and support. Stop in and enter our contest and see everything our library has to offer.

Starting the last week of May will be our summer reading program. This year's theme is "Build a Better World". Our kickoff program will be on Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm with a program presented by Mercer Soil and Water Conservation. We encourage parents to enroll their children in our library's summer reading program which is free and helps keep children reading during the summer. 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, [www.facebook.com/ZahnMarionLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/ZahnMarionLibrary) or our new website, [www.mercerlibrary.org/Marion](http://www.mercerlibrary.org/Marion). So come into the library today and check us out!



## Marion Township Park—Lee Heitkamp

The Park Board of Marion Township Park meets monthly. We continue to focus on improving and maintaining the park for our community.

The park board continues to work through the process of grant applications for a potential park trail/path for walking and running around the park. The application was submitted at the beginning of February as we await word of any potential support through the Recreational Trails Program. We are hopeful to hear something by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

As you recall, the initial segment of sidewalk connecting St. Johns road to the concession stand was funded by the park board last summer as an initial phase. Feedback has been positive as we continue to move forward in looking at a project this size (capable of being completed in future phases). There will also be a local portion of funding needed if we are successful. The goal with this potential project is to continue to facilitate growth of the park considering all age groups in its utilization. (See photo of map.)

Unfortunately, as we have come to realize through a tree falling in the high winds this month, more trees need to come down sooner than later. The township has taken down 18 trees already including stump removal. We are grateful. Fortunately, our replenishment by purchasing and planting 50 this past September will at least place a dent in supporting rejuvenation over time.

Another project in the works is an additional volleyball court adjacent to the current one. This is partially funded by an anonymous donation toward an additional volleyball court. The plan is to have it completed before the Countryfest. We thank the donor!

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Alumni Tournament on the park grounds July 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars to attend!



If you have suggestions for the park's future, we welcome those discussions. Current Park Board Members include: Lee Heitkamp (President- 419-305-8238), Eric Schroeder (Eagle Scout project manager – 419-296-8570), Nancy Billerman (419-733-8668), Keith Pohlmann (rentals – 567-644-5818), Nick “Shaggy” Pavelka (social media/email coordinator 419-852-3858), Jeff Wolters (Treasurer - 419-953-6863), Shelly Hartings (Secretary/Concessions stand 419-953-2569), & Jesse Rose (419-305-6695).

Please feel free to contact. We have now updated to a new page on [Facebook \(Marion Township Park\)](#) and on [Twitter \(@MarionTwpPark\)](#). Please follow us for listings of future

events and details. You can also contact us through email: [mariontwpark@gmail.com](mailto:mariontwpark@gmail.com).

## 301 Club—Cory Albers

The 301 Club hosted their Appreciation Party at the Maria Stein Legion on Friday, January 20 after a home boys' basketball game. Food and beverages were provided for all members and their families. Below are the winners from the Appreciation Party:

**\$25 Early Pay Winners:** Scott & Marlene Livingston, Brian & Michelle Mescher, Kyle & Cara Unrast, Randy & Lynn Stucke

**Free Membership:** Brian Dwenger

**Cash Winners:** \$301 – Kevin & Laura Greisdorn, \$150 – Tim & Joyce Moeller, \$50 – PJ & Carla Thobe

### Gift Certificate Winners:

**Maria Stein Legion Bar:** Roger & Lynn Ungruhn, Ron & Vickie Winner, Linda & Herb Ranly

**Scott's Carryout:** Gary & Karen Prenger, Dr. Jim & Teresa Schwieterman, Craig & Holly Wolters

**Chickasaw Quik Stop:** Brian & Beth Winner, Dave & Mona Berning, Jerry & Eileen Bohman

**Winner's Meats:** Doug & Tracy Klosterman, Dan & Carla Grieshop, Jerome & Bernadetta Kemper

**Town Tavern:** Craig & Amy Knapke, Ron & Ann Puthoff, Bart & Karen Homan

**Moeller Brew Barn:** Mike & Missy Moeller, Kevin & Nicole Fleck, Don & Amy Kemper

**Korner Kafe:** Nick & Julie Schulze, Ted & Sarah Bergman, Kevin & Lona Mescher

**Mercer County Elks:** Greg & Jena Hartings, Pleiman Landscaping, Matt & Kristy Eifert

**MVP Sports:** Randy & Lynn Stucke, Paul & Amy Knapke, Scott & Linda Tangeman

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. Go Flyers!

Marion Community Development Organization  
PO Box 65  
Maria Stein, OH 45860-0065

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**Please consider joining the MCDO! If you have any questions regarding your membership, please feel free to contact Bob Dippold at (419) 305-0128 or Shannon Everman (419) 925-5707 or email to [admin@marioncommunities.com](mailto:admin@marioncommunities.com).**

**2017 MCDO Membership Form**

Business Membership \$60.00 _____	Family Membership \$15.00 _____
Please indicate if you would like a receipt for tax deduction: _____	
Name: _____	Date: _____
Address: _____	
City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____	Email: _____

***Please make checks payable to: Marion Community Development Organization***

***Please send remittance to: MCDO - PO Box 65 - Maria Stein, OH 45860-0065***