



## President's Message—Ted Bertke

**Multi-Use Path:** The Marion Community Greenway Project is making progress towards land acquisition for construction of the multi-use path. Construction is planned for 2021, and bid notification will be made as soon as land acquisition is complete. The committee has requested funding thru the Ohio Capital Budget, which will help offset the remaining funds needed. The timeline for approval of the Ohio Capital Budget is not known at this time. This project would not be possible without the generosity and support of many organizations, businesses and people, all of which help make this community incredible!

The Bike Path Committee would like to thank all of the attendees and participants of the 2020 Party in the Park in September. The Scavenger Hunt style event sent teams off in different directions and had 9 stops with multiple fun activities throughout, including putt-putt golf, hillbilly golf, the wafer challenge, and more. The generosity of the community continues to shine as we get closer to our fundraising goal to make the 2.1 mile multi-use path a reality.

**Memberships:** The MCDO membership drive begins in January 2021. Membership for the year is \$15.00 for a family and \$60.00 for a business. You can pay by cash, check or Venmo. The Venmo username is @MarionCommunity-DevelopmentOrg and a screenshot is shown. Please include "MCDO Membership" in the description. Please contact Bob Dippold (419) 305-0128 or Shannon Everman (419) 925-5707 or email to [admin@marioncommunities.com](mailto:admin@marioncommunities.com) if you have any questions about the status of your membership.



### 2021 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: _____ (to be used for minutes distribution)	

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

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

*Pay by Venmo - Username: @MarionCommunity-DevelopmentOrg*

*(Please include "MCDO Membership" in Description)*



## ***Zahn Marion Township Library—Juli Berning***

Here's what's happening at the library. All four library locations are now open to the public...we just remind you that you:

- enter through the front door
- use hand sanitizer before handling items
- face masks are encouraged
- limit browsing to 30 minutes
- limit computer use to 60 minutes
- practice social distancing

And remember if it's raining or snowing or you just don't feel like coming in, we can bring items out to your car via our curbside service.

The Mercer County District Library recently received two grants through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. These funds will be put to use to provide better access and service for our patrons at **all** locations. Here is a brief overview of the different items that will be coming to our four locations:

### **Additional hotspots – All locations**

- Computer tech lounge – Main (Celina) location
- 24 access book locker system – Mendon branch

### **Touchless entry – Marion Branch**

- Task chairs & book carts – St. Henry

### **Touchless water fountain/bottle filler – Celina, Marion, St. Henry**

### **Touchless faucets, paper towel and soap dispensers, and light switches – Marion, St. Henry, Mendon**

Be on the lookout for these exciting updates!

Are you a home daycare provider and can't get to the library? Did you know we offer book deliveries weekly, bi-weekly or monthly right to your home? We pick out a wide range of books from board books to story books and we also include coloring pages for the kids. If you are interested in doing this for your kiddos, contact Juli and she will be happy to help you get started.

### **Upcoming events:**

Winter reading giveaway—enter our "Winter Reading Giveaway" December 21<sup>st</sup> thru January 18<sup>th</sup> for a chance to win a prize! Kids—every 5 books = an entry in the drawing and you can get additional entries by picking up our take and make craft bags. Adults – every check out = an entry in the drawing.

Blind Date with a Book is back! Adults, during the month of February check out one of our wrapped mystery date books. Fill out the "Rate Your Date" slip and return it to be entered for a prize.

Call your library for more information. 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](https://www.facebook.com/ZahnMarionLibrary) and "like" our page. So, come into the library today and check us out!

## ***301 Club—Nick Boeckman***

The MCDO 301 Recreation Club would like to thank everyone for their continued support of our local parks and youth leagues. We are currently in the middle of the 2020 membership drive. We are reminding anyone who has not already renewed to please consider doing so by returning your renewal form and payment at your earliest convenience. If you have not received a renewal form in the mail or would like to become a member, please contact Nick Boeckman through email at [mcdo301.group@gmail.com](mailto:mcdo301.group@gmail.com), by phone at 937-638-8579 or any of the other committee members (Doug Bender, Luke Bertke, Wes Everman, Matt Homan, Alex Moeller, Kyle Moeller, Mitch Thobe or Brian Wolters). Membership is \$50, as it always has been, and enters you into a weekly drawing of \$100. All members are randomly selected to win each week resulting in 52 - \$100 winners.

**The Annual Member Appreciation Party that was to be held on Friday, January 22nd at the Maria Stein Legion, will now be held virtually through Facebook Live. Throughout the evening, we will draw all door prizes and the final weekly drawings virtually and the winners will be notified. [The event will start at the completion of the boys varsity basketball game that evening.](#)**

We would like to thank the 200+ members who have already renewed! In the past, many members renewed the night of the appreciation party. We ask that you please renew before then by returning the membership renewal form mailed to you or reaching out to a committee member.

The MCDO 301 Recreation Club is a non-profit group that has been actively supporting Marion youth programs and our local parks since 1996. Our goal is to help sustain active programs and the development of our parks. We are able to accomplish this through membership fees, donations & our annual chicken dinner sales. Our community and kids benefit and appreciate all your generosity. Go Flyers!

## ***Maria Stein Shrine—Don Rosenbeck & Susie Bergman***

Happy New Year from the Shrine!

On December 8th Pope Francis began a year devoted to St. Joseph. To celebrate the foster father of our Lord, the Shrine will be celebrating Mass on March 19th at 7pm. This is the feast of St. Joseph and a time when many communities put together a St. Joseph's table. This table, filled sweets and treats to honor St. Joseph, will be opened after Mass for people to enjoy. We hope you will join us in meditating on the courageous witness of St. Joseph in 2021.

Here are a list of other upcoming events – Mark your calendar!

- Jan 24: St. Dymphna Mental Health Prayer Service
- Feb 14: Couples Night
- Feb 17: Shrove (Fat Tuesday) Pancake Dinner & Alleluia Burial
- Mar 19: Feast of St. Joseph Mass
- Mar 21: St. Peregrine Cancer Prayer Service
- Mar 31: Tenebrae
- Apr 17: Taste of the Shrine

Finally, journey through the history of the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics and the religious community who founded it, the Sisters of the Precious Blood (Dayton), with the reverent Shrine History Book! The book allows the reader to tour the museum, former convent building and Shrine grounds. It features beautiful new and historical photos, plus a full color remastering of the relic directory and a treasury of prayers that relate to the spirituality and ministries of the Shrine. If you have not purchased a copy yet, you can do so at the Pilgrim Gift Shop or online at [pilgrimgiftshop.com](http://pilgrimgiftshop.com).

## ***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.

Thanks to all that supported the annual chicken and pork chop dinner in September! Along with a few small maintenance projects that were completed this fall, the Park Board approved the purchase of a used John Deere Gator to be utilized by the park groundskeeping crew.

We are VERY grateful for the great support of this community and are currently reviewing and planning for what we would like to accomplish in the next year with your generosity. The Park Board is looking forward to working with the Marion Community Greenway Project committee in the next phases of the path project.

Nick "Shaggy" Pavelka has been a part of the Marion Township Park Board for many years and he will soon be stepping down. We appreciate everything he has done and we welcome Diane Alexander to fill his position.

A special thank you to "Jigs" Thobe for the donation of a new American flag to the park.

If you would like to become a patron of the park, please contact Jeff Wolters or you may simply submit your contact information and \$30 donation by mail to PO Box 12, Maria Stein, OH 45860. You will be entered in the monthly drawings and be able to attend the annual soup appreciation party.

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 (419-296-8570), Jeff Wolters (Treasurer – 419-953-6863), Nick "Shaggy" Pavelka (Social media/email coordinator – 419-852-3858), Ryan Stucke (Rentals – 419-852-5088), Jesse Rose (419-305-6695), Kara Ahrens (419-733-7774), and Renee Hartings (Secretary/Concession stand – 419-305-5530).

Please follow us on **Facebook (Marion Township Park)**, on **Twitter (@MarionTwpPark)**, or email us at **[mari-ontwppk@gmail.com](mailto:mari-ontwppk@gmail.com)**.

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### ***Marion Local Schools—Mike Pohlman***

The first half of the school year is almost complete and our students have accomplished a lot both academically and in their extra-curricular activities. I am most thankful for the opportunity to be with our students and staff each day at school. The senior citizens Christmas luncheon was different this year, but still a success. We were able to deliver meals by having a drive-thru, and it was very enjoyable to speak to many of our senior citizens as they drive through the pick-up line. I would like to thank Barb Kahlig for organizing this event, Renee Hartings, Cindy Moeder and the kitchen staff for preparing a wonderful meal, and Tim Goodwin and Julie Overman for dressing up as Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. It is great to celebrate Christmas with the senior citizens in our community.

We have remained very busy completing projects around the district. Currently we are in the design phase for the new kindergarten classrooms. We are still working towards this spring to break ground on the new addition. We will be installing a new chiller at the high school and that project will begin already at the first of the year with completion of the project occurring around the first of April. Finally, we have started the process of replacing our all-weather track. It is worn very thin in many areas and we will go out to bid for a replacement in the near future. We plan to complete this track season on the existing track and look to replace the track this summer. We are completing some big projects, but all needed to maintain our current facilities.

I fully expect the second half of the school year will mimic the success of the first half. I once again appreciate the support we receive from the community as we navigate through these uncertain times. There are always rumors circulating about closing down school. I can't control what the state and federal government choose to do, but I can assure you that we are advocating that our students remain in school.

I hope everyone has a very blessed 2021!