



President's Message—Ted Bertke

MULTI-USE PATH: The Marion Community Bike Path Committee is hosting a Sneak Peak into 2021 Bike & Walking Path on August 1st, 2020 at 11 am, in conjunction with the Maria Stein American Legion's Soup, Song's & Suds Event. This is a FREE event and can be walked or biked, roughly 4 miles, and will start and end at the Maria Stein American Legion. Additionally, the Annual September Bike Tour is scheduled for Sunday, September 27, 2020. Follow the Marion Community Multi-Use Path Facebook page for continuing updates. You can pledge your support for the Marion Township Greenway Founders' Brick Club at www.marioncommunities.com. Thank you for your consideration!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Marion Local Schools—Mike Pohlman

This spring COVID-19 was the topic of the majority of my conversations. Quite often I was asked, "Do you think we will have normal school next year?" My answer to that question, "**YES!**" It is very humbling to not have direct answers for our community in regards to what the future will look like, but in this instance we will do our best to get the students of the Marion Local school district into our building with face to face learning on August 26th, 2020.

Things may look a little different in the way we structure the school day and conduct classes, but I am very confident that this can be done in a safe manner. At this time we don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves in setting any plans in stone on what it may look like starting next year. As most of you are aware, things change day by day. Guidelines come out weekly whether they are from the Ohio Department of Education, the CDC, OHSAA, or the Governor's office. Our main priority is to review these guidelines, but establish plans that make sense and work for the Marion community. It is also important that we gain the approval from our local county health department. I am confident that as we work with our county health department, common sense will prevail.

It was an outstanding 2019-2020 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 fifty-six graduates who "virtually" participated in commencement ceremonies on May 17th. Derrek Kemper was named valedictorian and Maria Heckman was named salutatorian. Of the fifty-six graduates twenty received Honors Diplomas, eighteen received the President's Award for Academic Excellence, and ten scored a composite score of 27 or higher on the ACT. 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.

Currently, we are looking at many projects this summer such as renovating the parking lot in front of the elementary and behind the high school, replacing some floor joist in the crawl space at the high school, and installation of the new playground.

I would like to thank the staff, students, and community one more time for their efforts and understanding through the remote learning process as we finished the school year. We made the best of it, but nothing compares to the education our students get by establishing relationships that are done in person and not through a computer screen. On May 26th student/athletes were approved to begin skills training and conditioning on our facilities. We are cancelling shutdown that was scheduled for June 28th to July 12th. Coaches will honor any family vacations. I hope you have an enjoyable and safe summer.

Maria Stein Shrine—Don Rosenbeck & Susie Bergman

It goes without saying that the pandemic has caused a lot of pain within our community and our country. For many of us, the immediate halt of "normal life" jolted us into a state of newly-found consciousness. We suddenly found ourselves searching for "the good" in the situation; making more time for prayer, family and helping others in need, while at the same time trying to make sense of "the bad".

When the Pilgrim Gift Shop and Museum were closed to the public due to restrictions, the Chapels remained open for individuals to experience time praying and just being with the relics of the Saints. We did our best to remain a faithful servant to our community during this time of great uncertainty and so many of you showed your support through social media messages, phone calls, utilizing our virtual tour for the Stations of the Cross, placing online orders, lighting candles, making donations, exploring the outdoor areas and just simply being here with us to pray!

Since finally being able to reopen all areas of the Shrine in mid-May, we are continually amazed by the blessings each and every one of you give here in God's Country. From attending events and Eucharistic Adoration to volunteering and scheduling tours, we are constantly reminded of the deep impact the Shrine has on you and your faithful presence has on us.

All of us at the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics would like to say thank you for doing your part to remind us of "the good". We look forward to seeing you again soon!



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.

With the lifting of certain restrictions by the Ohio Department of Health due to Covid-19, the Park Board has officially opened the restrooms and concession stand along with the start of baseball and softball season. We encourage all patrons of the park to review the health guidelines that have been published by the state and local health departments and make decisions for what is best for them, their families and others while enjoying the Park.

The renovation to the batting cage near diamond #4 by the baseball committee has been completed and the softball committee has started installation of a batting cage near diamond #2. We appreciate the time and investment by both of these committees in giving our local youth the opportunity to use this equipment for years to come.



The Park Board is still tentatively planning and looking forward to hosting the annual Alumni Tournament on the park grounds on July 24th, 25th, 26th. We are currently reviewing protocols and working to confirm that we can maintain the health requirements so that we can hold the event for the community to enjoy. Please 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 (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**.

301 Club—Nick Boeckman

The MCDO 301 Recreation Club would like to thank everyone who has renewed their memberships for 2020. We would also like to welcome the new members that are joining us. It is because of all of our members that we are able to help support so many different youth summer programs and also assist the local parks with additional funds. If you have not received a renewal form in the mail or would like to become a member, please contact Nick Boeckman through email mcdo301.group@gmail.com, by phone 937-638-8579 or any of the other committee members (Alex Moeller, Matt Homan, Luke Bertke, Nick Boeckman, Kyle Moeller, Mitch Thobe, Wes Everman, or Kirk Stucke).

The MCDO 301 Recreation Club donated **\$13,900** to the following youth summer programs and local parks; Marion Little League, Youth Softball, Youth Soccer Program, Pony League Baseball, Acme, Jr. Acme, Chickasaw Parks, Marion Township Park and Osgood Park.



Osgood Park requested and received additional funds to make improvements to their ball diamond. Chickasaw Parks received funds to improve their basketball courts and athletic area around the ball diamond. The baseball and softball programs



received additional funds this year to improve/build batting cages at Marion Township Park. We would also like to thank all of the volunteers who help make our local parks so great!

The summer youth sports programs are back underway for the 2020 season. We would like to thank all of the volunteers who help coach and assist these programs.

Our annual chicken dinner fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, July 12th, 2020. The pickup will again be at the Marion Local High School at the Commons Entrance between 11:00 and 12:30. These are \$8.00 a ticket and can still be purchased by calling or emailing to the address above until July 3rd.

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 children benefit from your generosity.

Spiritual Center—Robin Goettemoeller

The Spiritual Center Retreat House has been pretty quiet inside due to retreat cancellations, but things are certainly busy outside. Increased foot traffic on the Maria Stein paths and in the woods has been noticed throughout the last few months. We loved seeing everyone on the property walking and praying - especially during Holy Week when so many people were praying at the outdoor Stations of the Cross. Similar Stations of the Cross were recently installed at the Montezuma location which now has a path with beautiful statues of Jesus and children, and soon a beautiful Mary statue will be installed. This same area will then be landscaped by a local Boy Scout as he completes his Eagle Scout Award while another Boy Scout completes his project by creating a patio and fire pit area. At the Maria Stein Retreat House a new program has begun called "Adopt a Flowerbed". Volunteers are being sought out to help maintain different flower beds along the walkways. If you are interested in helping out, please check the Spiritual Center facebook page or website www.spiritualcenter.net for more information. Or stop by during office hours Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00. The Gift Shop in the Maria Stein Retreat House lobby is fully stocked with all kinds of gift items so be sure to stop by anytime to check things out. We look forward to seeing everyone inside, as well as outside, of the building this summer!

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Zahn Marion Township Library—Juli Berning

We miss all of you at the library! Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we adjust to the “new normal” of library operations. Curbside Services continue to be going well and running smoothly. We are hoping to transition into the next phase, opening to the public following all state and local guidelines, beginning July 1st. However, for the best interest of patron and staff safety we are going to continue to restrict all library programming and events to virtual. This is all subject to change according to state orders and if you have any questions, please let us know.

It's not too late to sign up for our summer reading program. Sign up online this year at SRP.MercerLibrary.org and make sure you select Marion Branch (Chickasaw) as your favorite library. You can sign up your whole family under one account and then choose a program for each person. Preschool-is for children entering kindergarten this coming year and any children younger. Children's-is for kids entering 1st grade thru 5th grade this coming year. Teen/Adult-everyone else goes into this group. Enter code IMAGINE to get 10 points! This year's theme is “Imagine Your Story”. The online program is a little different this year but is easy to use. If you have any questions, please call the library. Make-and-take craft bags can be picked up each week---some weeks will have secret codes inside to get more points. The program will run until July 20th and all goodie bags and prizes will be available July 25th. Our end of summer reading program party is tentatively schedule for **Friday, July 24th** at the Maria Stein American Legion at 1:30 pm and our entertainment will be provided by children's singer/songwriter, Chip Richter.

Babysitters/Daycare providers – Would you like library books delivered right to you and picked up right from your location? We offer this service. We can deliver however many books you want on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis. Call the library to sign up or for more details.

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.