



## ***President's Message—Ted Bertke***

**Multi-Use Path:** The Marion Community Greenway Project was able to complete a portion of the land acquisition. Construction is planned for 2021, and bid notification will be going out on March 18, 2021. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$1,175,000. The Ohio Public Works Commission' Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program was awarded \$869,500 in grant funds in 2019. The committee had requested funding thru the 2021-2022 Ohio Capital Budget, which was recently approved and the Greenway Project will be awarded \$85,000. After the Ohio Capital Budget award is applied, the remaining balance needed for the project is \$39,886. Founders Brick Club Pledges are still being accepted and details can be found at [www.marioncommunities.com](http://www.marioncommunities.com). This entire project would not be possible without the generosity and support of many organizations, businesses and people, all of which help make this community incredible!

**Memberships:** Membership for 2021 is \$15.00 for a family and \$60.00 for a business. You can pay by cash, check or Venmo (new in 2021)! The Venmo username is @MarionCommunity-DevelopmentOrg and a screenshot is shown. Enter 5010 to confirm the last 4 digits of the phone number. 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. Thank you to all members who have returned their memberships and your continued support of the MCDO!



**Community News:** In coordination with the Red Cross, Winner's Meats will again be sponsoring the "Pound for Pint" on both of these following dates, March 29th at Minster and April 15th in Maria Stein. Winner's Meats will be handing out a token to every donor which will be good for a FREE pound of "Whole Hog Bulk Sausage" redeemable at either of Winner's Osgood locations. "Donate and receive a token good for 1 lb. of "Whole Hog Sausage", redeemable at both Osgood locations courtesy of Winners Meats".

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

Spring sports have started and I am hoping more consistent spring weather will follow. Because of inclement weather and exceeding our five calamity days, we conducted our first remote learning day on February 18th. This was a successful educational day thanks to the students and staff working hard on the task at hand. Nothing will ever replace the importance of face to face instruction, but a lot was accomplished on this day and I want to personally thank everyone for their efforts. Many school districts across the state of Ohio and throughout the U.S. are struggling with educating their students and have students who are unaccounted for. I admire the toughness of the Marion Local community and truly believe that rural northwest/west central Ohio is a model to follow on how things should be done. Common sense prevails once again!

The Marion Local school district is seeing a lot of progress academically but also with structural improvements. We are in the final stages of replacing the chillers at the high school building with that project scheduled to end in early April. March 29th is the scheduled date for ground breaking for the four new classroom addition. H.A. Dorsten was selected and approved as the winning bidder for that project. I am excited to begin as our enrollment continues to climb in the lower elementary grades. Finally, we are currently out to bid on renovating our existing all-weather track. That project is projected to begin in early June.

We are gearing up for the final nine weeks of the school year. Many great things have taken place and we will finish this year strong. Graduation commencements are set for May 23rd as we prepare to send off the class of 2021.



Thank you for all of your support. Go Flyers!

**Zahn Marion Township Library—Juli Berning** With reported COVID cases continuing to decrease in Mercer County, we are going to continue to transition back to normal operations. As of March 1st, we began offering limited use of our meeting spaces and in-library programming also resumed with restrictions including a limit of 10 patrons in meeting spaces at one time respecting social distancing as well as following all other state mandates. All regular library services (notary, proctoring, etc.) have resumed and are available at the comfort level of each staff. As of March 15th we will also be lifting the time limits on browsing and computer use. Patrons will no longer be limited on the amount of time spent in the library (within reason). There is also no longer a limit to how many patrons can be in the building at one time, again within reason. Hopefully, in the next few weeks and months we will be back to “normal” or as normal as we can get. If you have ANY questions or need clarifications, do not hesitate to contact us.

Here’s what’s happening at the library:

- Thursday morning story hour is not currently being held, however, beginning in April if the weather is nice we will be having it outside. Please check our Facebook page or contact the library to see if we are having it that day. Hopefully in the near future we can be having it inside as usual.
- National Library Week (April 4 - 10, 2021) is a time to celebrate our nation's libraries, library workers' contributions and promote library use and support. The theme for National Library Week 2021 is "Welcome to Your Library." During the pandemic, library workers continue to exceed their communities' demands and adapt resources and services to meet their users' needs during these challenging times. Whether people visit in person or virtually, libraries offer endless opportunities to transform lives through education and lifelong learning. Stop in the library and get your picture taken with our “library butterfly” and get a chance to win a \$10 gift certificate to the Maria Stein Dairy Station. Also stop in and get our take and make craft, which in April will be a butterfly.
- Take and Make Bags Will be offered in April and May. Stop in and pick some up for your children. No pre-registration is required. Bags are available starting the second week of each month on a first come first serve basis.
- Summer Reading—What happens when students stop reading over the summer?
  - \* \$1,500 is the estimated cost per student that is lost due to re-teaching material forgotten over the summer.
  - \* 2-3 months of reading & math skills are lost over the summer.
  - \* 2-3 hours of reading per week are needed over the summer to prevent learning loss.
  - \* 4-6 weeks needed of re-teaching material students have forgotten over the summer.

What can you do to help your child? Sign up for our summer reading program. Your child could win prizes, have fun, and it is a great opportunity for family time. This year’s theme is “Tails and Tales” and will begin in late May. 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](http://www.facebook.com/ZahnMarionLibrary) and “like” our page. So come in to the library today and check us out!

## **Spiritual Center—Robin Goettemoeller**

Soon Spring will be here, which means it's time to start working outside in the flower beds again! Many people enjoy the paths throughout the Spiritual Center Retreat House grounds, and many also notice that there are still some flower beds that get little to no attention. Last year several families helped with the flower beds and we appreciate all that they accomplished! Now is your chance to help make a difference too! With your family and loved ones, consider adopting a Retreat House flower bed in the “Adopt-a-Flowerbed” program. This program is a volunteer-based activity that allows each group to maintain the selected flower bed, with the direction of the Retreat House staff. Call or email us to see which flower beds are still available at 419-925-7625 or [robin@spiritualcenter.net](mailto:robin@spiritualcenter.net). Thank you for volunteering – we can’t wait to see what you do!



Mercer County Council on Aging continues to host line dancing and pickleball each Tuesday at the Montezuma Retreat House. Check out their website for more information: <https://mccoa.net/events-calendar>

The American Red Cross will be hosting a Blood Drive at the Montezuma Retreat House Tuesday, May 18 from noon - 6:00 p.m. Register online at: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>

Check out the Spiritual Center Facebook page or website [www.spiritualcenter.net](http://www.spiritualcenter.net) for information about youth camps taking place this summer.

Lastly, stop in any time Monday through Friday (9:00-4:00) to shop in the Maria Stein Retreat House Gift Shop! We have many, many inspirational items that are great for yourself or to give as gifts. We are next door to the Shrine, back the long driveway and next to the big silver cross. The gift shop is in the lobby on the main level of the building. We hope to see you soon!

## ***Maria Stein Shrine—Don Rosenbeck & Susie Bergman*** Easter Blessings from the Shrine!

On Saturday April 17, the Shrine will be hosting a NEW event! Taste of the Shrine will begin at 5:30pm and feature some of the finest food and drink crafted in God's country! Participating vendors include Moeller Brew Barn, The Winery at Versailles, Bella's Italian Grille, Do Good Restaurant, Grammie's Goodies and more! Purchase a pre-sale pass before April 10th and receive 25 sample tickets for \$25! Samples are priced at 1-5 tickets each. At the door, tickets will be 20 for \$25. The 2nd \$1,000 Heritage Day Celebration drawing winner will be drawn at 7:00PM! Purchase event and raffle tickets online at mariasteinshrine.org, at the Shrine or by calling Diana Russell at 419-925-4532.

The Shrine will be part of the Archdiocese Marian Pilgrimage on Friday, May 21. After a 6pm Mass at St. John's Church, pilgrims will process to the Shrine's Relic Chapel with a statue of Our Lady of Fatima that has been blessed by the Archbishop. This is part of a 33 day pilgrimage throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to celebrate its bicentennial. The statue will be placed in the chapel near a relic of the Blessed Mother that will be out for veneration during the special occasion. The Eucharist will then be exposed in the Adoration Chapel with public recitation of the rosary. The Eucharist will remain exposed until 9:30pm when Benediction will occur. For more information on this event, visit [www.mary2021.org](http://www.mary2021.org).

***301 Club—Nick Boeckman*** The MCDO 301 Recreation Club hosted a VIRTUAL Appreciation Party on Friday, January 24th after the home boys' basketball game vs. Minster. A Live stream of the appreciation event was provided via Facebook Live for all members and their families. Below are the winners from the Appreciation Party:

### **Gift Certificate Winners:**

**Maria Stein Legion Bar:** Vern & Anita Kremer, Dale & Diane Wolters, Harry & Marge Heitkamp, Derek Albers

**Brick Haus:** Marcus & Allison Moeller, Ben & Tessa Moeller, Kerry & Shelly Bruns, Chris & Cindy Berning

**Do Good:** Randy & Linda Bergman, Don & Mary Eyink, Dan & Susan Albers

**Scott's Carryout:** Bill & Donna Elking, Doug & Shelly Hartings, Don & Tess Mescher, Ty & Tara Grieshop

**Chickasaw Qwik Stop:** Brian & Kristy Hess, Glenn & Connie Prenger, Craig & Brooke Moeder, Jay & Lori Brunswick

**Winner's Meats:** Randy Clune, Dave & Jenny Albers, Dale & Pam Schulze, Dean & Jane Brunswick

**Town Tavern:** Dave & Joan Moorman, Kevin & Nicole Fleck, Kevin & Lona Mescher, Nick & Amy Pierron

**Moeller Brew Barn:** Ted & Amy Winner, Jared & Caroline Ranly, Cory & Lisa Moeller, Gary & Carol Hartings

**Korner Kafe:** Trent & Erin Huelsman, Dan & Lisa Homan, Alan & Sharon Hess, Jay & Sharon Thobe

**Mercer County Elks:** Troy & Heidi Luebke, Gary & Donna Moeller, Rick & Angie Moeller, Paul & Mary Gagel

**MVP Sports:** Jim & Tammy Moeller, Jason & Abby Bruns, Art & Rosemary Prenger, Scott & Linda Tangeman

**Betty's Natural Foods:** Kevin & Lori Albers, Rob & Jaclyn Kemper, Brad & Susie Everman, Chris Keller

**Free Membership:** Gary & Beth Fortkamp

**Cash Winners:** 1st – Dan & Barb Heitkamp, 2nd – Betty Poeppelman, 3rd – Larry & Laurie Feltz

As always, we have to thank all of the businesses who help our cause by donating gift certificates. We also thank all of our members for your continued support of not only our organization, but your support of our youth programs and parks in the Marion Community.

**\*\*2nd ANNUAL NIGHT GOLF\*\*** Join the MCDO 301 club for an evening of Night Golf & Music on the Patio at the Mercer County Elks Golf Club on June 18, 2021. We heard everyone's feedback from last year and have made some major improvements to make this event run smoother in our 2nd year! Get a team of 4 together or let us put one together for you. We invite both golfers & non-golfers alike for an evening of fun at the course and on the patio. Games, Door Prizes, Food & Fun! Golfing is \$30 for Elks members & \$40 for non-Elks members. Golfing starts at 8:30PM with games and live music from 7:30 – 10:30 PM. Register by contacting an MCDO 301 committee member or emailing [mcdo301.group@gmail.com](mailto:mcdo301.group@gmail.com).

If anyone would like to join the MCDO 301 Recreation Club, please talk with 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).

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. Go Flyers!

Marion Community Development Organization  
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Maria Stein, OH 45860-0065

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## ***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.

Recently, park board members voted to approve the purchase of a used lawn garden tractor to be utilized by the park groundskeeping crew. There are also several maintenance items scheduled to be completed this spring and summer including the painting of the playground equipment in the woods, painting of the foul poles, stump removal and the painting of the scoreboard on Diamond #3.

With both the baseball and softball seasons starting soon, the Park Board will be re-opening the restrooms in time for use during practices. We would like to wish all softball and baseball teams the best on their upcoming seasons!

Looking ahead to this summer, we look forward to seeing you at this year's Maria Stein Country Fest! The Park Board is planning on having our annual stand and invites you to stop by for our delicious walking tacos and legendary sugar waffles. The Alumni Softball and Volleyball Tournament is scheduled on the park grounds for July 23rd, 24th, and 25th. 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), Diane Alexander (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.