



MCDO MISSION STATEMENT

The Marion Community Development Organization (MCDO) is an organization under the laws of the State of Ohio, not-for-profit. The mission of the organization shall be to act as a coordinating body to assist local organizations meet the changing needs of the Marion Community through planned development while maintaining its agricultural profile. The activities will be directed toward, but not limited to, development of infrastructure, housing, family care, education, small business, recreation, and agriculture.

President, Ted Bertke called the November meeting of The Marion Community Development Organization to order by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held on Tuesday, November 18th, 2025, at 7:30 a.m. at the Marion Township Building.

TREASURER REPORT:

Deb Otte presented the financial report. The report for the month ending October 31, 2025, is as follows:

Total Cash Balance: \$357,576

Cash Summaries		Organization Fund Summaries	
Checking	\$313,503	Recreation Fund	\$23,301
CD's	\$22,230	General Fund – MCDO	\$34,152
Savings	\$21,843	Marion Soccer	\$11,549
Total Cash	\$357,576	Girls' Softball	\$9,600
		ML FFA	\$23,110
		ML FFA Pork Producers	\$28,751
		Boys Baseball	\$48,891
		Ag Ed Boosters	\$32,133
		Ag Ed Scholarship	\$1,000
		ML Bowling	\$646
		Marion Industrial Park Association	\$22,714
		Woods Chapel Maintenance Fund	\$798
		Multi-Use Path	\$84,250
		Fundamental League	\$8,238
		Girls Youth Basketball	\$2,373
		Boys Youth Basketball	\$4,332
		Carthage Park	\$21,738
		Total Organization Funds	\$357,576

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. RECREATION COMMITTEE: Committee Chairperson – Doug Bender

The weekly winners of the 301 Club are as follows:

October 27: Craig & Lindsey Tuent
November 10: Kyle & Darian Mescher

November 3: Randy & Jennifer Bruns
November 17: Craig & Holly Wolters

2. MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE: *Committee Chairperson –Allison Moeller*

To all of our 2025 MCDO Members, thank you for your continued support of our organization and community! New for 2026, our monthly minutes will include a business spotlight to raise awareness and show appreciation for the amazing businesses that are members of the Marion Community Development Organization. Please continue supporting these local businesses, who in turn provide outstanding support for our community. If you are a local business owner and would like to participate in the monthly spotlight, please reach out to admin@marioncommunities.com for more information.

3. HOUSING: *Committee Chairperson – Bob Unrast*

The St. Francis housing development south of Chickasaw has four building lots available. The lots are between .381 and .711 acres starting at \$28,500 and include village water and sewage. Contact Tess Mescher for more information at 419-305-0106.

The Woodview Estates subdivision still has lots available for sale. For more information, please contact Jay Ruhenkamp at 937-295-4244.

Dan Jutte has a development underway off Jackson Street. Please contact him at 419-733-0053 for more information on the available lots.

Osgood is moving forward with development of land on the west end of town off State Route 705. This development is to the north of the current OPPAC building and the Osgood Community Veterans Center. It also borders and has lots off Mendenhall Road. Lot prices have not been set yet, but the village expects sales of land to be ready to take place first quarter of 2025. Please contact any of the Osgood Town Council representatives listed below for more information. Steve Kramer 937-621-1096, Ron Lange 937-670-2302, Rob Kemper 937-417-6632, Jim Arling 937-467-1632, Dan Brown 419-953-6416, Beth Winner 419-305-3444, Kate Langenkamp 419-305-5748, Lisa Beasley 937-638-4673, villageofosgood@hotmail.com

4. HEALTH, EDUCATION, & SAFETY: *Committee Chairperson – Lisa Buschur*

There will be an open house to celebrate Mercer Heath's 75th Anniversary. It will be held Dec 4th from 1-4 pm.

5. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: *Committee Chairperson – Mark Hardesty*

FFA members recently traveled to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. The trip included tours of Woodmizer and Stockyards Packing Co, an Ag Industry Expo, sessions with keynote speakers and a concert featuring Ella Langley. The next FFA Meeting is November 24th and will feature a Thanksgiving theme with Marion Local Alumni! FFA members are also planning for a December full of Christmas cheer with our monthly meeting and community service opportunity.

On November 16th, a group of Marion Local Ag Boosters were led on a tour of the new facility by Superintendent Mike Pohlman. It was exciting to see the progress of the construction and to envision the agricultural science classes in their new home!

OTHER BUSINESS:

If anyone is interested in joining the MCDO Board in any capacity, please contact Deb Otte at admin@marioncommunities.com.

Mark your calendars, the MCDO will be holding a Community Address Luncheon on Sunday, March 8th. More information to come!

VILLAGES, TOWNSHIP, PARKS, & SCHOOL REPORTS:

1. **Carthagen Park Report** – To reserve the park please call Nancy Koesters at 419-925-5192.
2. **Chickasaw** – No new information to report.
3. **Chickasaw Park Board Report** – For information on renting the park shelters (both the VFW and Ball Diamond), contact AJ Homan at 419-733-1171.
4. **Osgood** – No new information to report.
5. **Osgood Park Board Report** – For information on renting the park shelters, call Nick Beasley at 937-621-7718.
6. **Marion Township** – No new information to report.
7. **Marion Township Park Board Report** – Please follow Marion Township Park on **Facebook (Marion Township Park)** and on **Twitter (@MarionTwpPark)**. You can also contact us through email: mariontwppk@gmail.com.

The Monthly Park Raffle Winners for October are as follows:

\$50 – Dennis Mescher

\$30 – Chad & Jill Prenger

\$25 – Neal & Kathy Homan

\$25 – Todd & Angie Francis

8. **Marion Local Schools** – Since the prior meeting there has been more activity coming out of the legislature in Columbus in regards to property tax bills. Four different bills were passed on November 19th that are awaiting a signature from Governor DeWine to go into effect. These bills will eliminate certain types of levies and adding certain levies to the 20-mill floor like the emergency levy that Marion Local currently has, which brings over \$1 million to the district annually. These changes will basically stop the increases that we see in these collections based on property values and will limit our revenues from this levy. They are also limiting increases on our other collections to the current rate of inflation. At the same time, they are not taking that decrease in collections into account when calculating our state funding either. In essence, hitting us with a double whammy!! Finally, they are also giving our county budget commission the right to decrease our collections if they deem us to not need all of it. This could even happen as early as 1 year after voters agree to a new levy. Overturning the results of voters just because you don't agree that it is needed is taking the local control away from great areas like ours. In Marion Local's initial projections since these bills were passed on Wednesday, it is projected to cost Marion Local a little over \$1.3 million dollars over the next 5 years. These bills do provide some tax relief to individuals initially, but will also lead to entities like schools, townships, police, fire, EMS, and others to come to the ballot more often, while pushing the state's share of school funding to all-time lows. Please continue to stay aware of the changes and continue to push our legislators to fully fund our public schools to keep them as strong as ever!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 am with a motion from Dr. Hardesty and a 2nd from Lisa Buschur. The next MCDO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16th, 2025, at 7:30 a.m. in the Marion Township Building.

Submitted by: Ted Bertke, President

Board of Directors

Ted Bertke, President	419-852-1072
Deb Otte, Secretary	419-305-4014
Jean Bender, Treasurer	419-925-4254
Deb Otte, Coordinator	419-305-4014

Committee Chairpersons

Agricultural Development:	Mark Hardesty, DVM 419-925-4212
Business Retention & Dev.:	Jill Nagel 419-925-9101
Health, Safety & Education:	Lisa Buschur 419-305-0858
Housing:	Bob Unrast 419-305-4485
Infrastructure:	Nick Moeller 619-884-9958
Membership:	Allison Moeller 567-644-5207
Recreation:	Luke Bertke 419-953-6114



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