

Marion Community Development Organization

FALL 2014—QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is distributed by the Marion Community Development Organization (MCDO). The goal of this newsletter is to inform area citizens in or near the Marion Local School District of the activities of the MCDO.

MCDO has worked on many projects and continues to be active in many areas with its eight standing committees. MCDO is constantly working on initiatives that will ultimately enable our communities to grow and develop. Contact us with questions, comments and concerns.

OFFICE LOCATION The MCDO office is located in the Marion Township Building in the Industrial Park. MCDO meetings are normally held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Marion Township building

2014 Board of Directors

Jim Keller, President	419-925-4764
Shannon Everman, Secretary	419-925-5707
Jean Bender, Treasurer	419-925-4254
Elaine Pierron	419-925-5704
Coordinator	
Jim Keller	419-925-4764

Committee Chairpersons

Agricultural Development:	
Mark Hardesty, DVM	419-925-4212
Business Retention & Dev.:	
Tony Kaiser	419-582-2681
Health, Safety & Education:	
Elaine Wolters	419-925-4620
Housing:	
Bob Unrast	419-925-4151
Infrastructure:	
Open	
Land Use:	
John Bruns	419-925-4712
Membership:	
Bob Dippold	419-305-0128
Recreation:	
Kirk Stucke	419-733-6261

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MARION COMMUNITY UPDATE

Jim Keller, President

AGRICULTURE - ML Ag Ed: The July 2014 meeting of the Ag Ed boosters was held in the Marion Township Building. Marion Local superintendent Mike Pohlman spoke to a sizeable crowd addressing their concerns about the future of the program at Marion Local. Local concerns had been triggered by the departure of FFA coordinator Lucy Bambauer and rumors that the ML board and administration no longer wanted to support the program. Mr. Pohlman did an admirable job addressing these issues assuring the attendees that the board and administration were firmly behind the program and actively seeking a replacement for Ms. Bambauer. Their efforts were rewarded a couple weeks later with the hiring of Kara Uhlenhake who recently graduated from the Ohio State University with a degree in Ag Science. Ms. Uhlenhake is a Coldwater native. The boosters had the pleasure of meeting her at their September meeting and while a bit overwhelmed about the newness of everything she appears to be doing a great job. Turns out no one really had anything to worry about.

AGRICULTURE—ML Ag Ed (cont.): Representatives from Garman/Miller & Associates, Inc attended the September meeting to answer questions about a multi function building for the program. A building planning committee was selected. These individuals will investigate ideas regarding size and features of the building.

AGRICULTURE - Ag Solutions: Laura Johnson a Research Scientist with Heidelberg University addressed the Ag Solutions group on Monday September 8. Heidelberg has 15 flow and nutrient monitoring stations across the state. Local stations are in the Chickasaw, Coldwater and Beaver creeks. Their data reflect that total phosphorous levels flowing into Grand Lake St. Marys from the Chickasaw and Coldwater continue to be high. This is most perplexing since local farmers have taken positive steps to address this issue with cover crops, stream buffers and no manure applications outside of approved dates. Laura noted that it is hard to always draw definitive conclusions from their data because of the many variables they are attempting to measure.

COMMUNITY REPORT – Industrial Park: A great deal has transpired since the summer newsletter. All of the lots have closed and the bank loan has been repaid. The proud owners of these lots are:

- Elizabeth Huelsman
- Amanda Fleck
- Dave Buschur (Buschur Trucking)
- MTI Enterprises (Moeller Trucking)
- Klosterman Construction
- C & K Enterprises, LLC (MS Welding)
- Don and Mary Eyink
- Dan Heitkamp

On Thursday July 31st, the Marion Township Trustees and the Marion Community Development Organization (MCDO) held a ground breaking ceremony. Attending were the Mercer County Commissioners and representatives from the County Economic Development Office, Park property owners, the Osgood State Bank, Midwest Electric, NKTelco, and the MCDO board. This ceremony was covered by Dayton and Lima TV and photos were submitted to the local press media.

It is most rewarding to see the progress being made on the streets and other infrastructure. Much work remains to be accomplished but we have a great beginning.

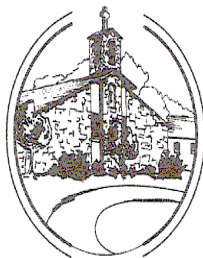
Thanks to everyone involved!

Chickasaw Water: Roberta Acosta with the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) continues to meet with Chickasaw's committee. Recent meetings have focused on funding approaches. Local fire department officials are concerned about providing protection to the entire industrial park. The timing of the park project and the water project are out of synch. If the timing were more optimum, water lines and hydrants could be efficiently incorporated with other infrastructure currently being installed. This situation is unfortunate and provides community leaders with some challenges to work through.

NKTelco: NKTelco has been installing fiber optic cable in the Maria Stein area the last few weeks. Their General Manager, Preston Meyer is confident that they will finish all connections into their communications hut on SR 716 by early October. Some additional clean up splicing may be required but he felt that they can start marketing their services in Maria Stein by mid to late October. They will work to extend their services to Chickasaw and Osgood during the winter. Depending on the weather, he foresees that they can begin servicing the villages sometime next summer. Preston advised that they have obtained all required approvals for installation in Chickasaw and Osgood except for some local easements. NKTelco staff will be working with the villages to get the required approvals.

Jim Jordan Visit: US Congressman Jim Jordan addressed a group of about 75 people at the Maria Stein Legion on August 22. Jim represents Ohio's fourth district. He spoke about family, faith and freedom; all topics near and dear to our thriving community. The event was co-sponsored by the MCDO and the Osgood State Bank. Thanks to the Maria Stein Legion for the use of their facility

Website: The new Marion Communities website is about set for launch. I've reviewed a test version and from my perspective, Shelly Bohman has done a great job. She is waiting for some final information from me. I've contacted many of the local businesses, park and town councils to get current accurate information for the site. If you have a business and are not sure that it is on the site, or if you have some community info you think should be included, please contact me: (419) 925-4764 or mcdo@roadrunner.com.

**SPIRITUAL CENTER***Robin Goettemoeller*

Many things are happening at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein this fall! Healing Masses are scheduled to take place October 14 and November 11 at 7:00 in the Chapel. There will be also be two more healing services led by Issam Nemeh, M.D. on

Saturday, November 15. Dr. Nemeh has been practicing medicine for over twenty years and has his own private practice located in Westlake, Ohio on the west side of Cleveland. Dr. Nemeh has been featured in a number of news programs and articles due to his innovative and highly effective methods of treatment. If you would like more information or to register for this healing services please visit www.PathToFaith.com

The Spiritual Center will again be hosting a "Fall Day of Reflection" led by Father Al Naseman and Fr. James Dugal on Thursday, November 6. They will be focusing on "Being Grateful for the Ordinary". Something new this fall is an event by the name of "IHOP". All are welcome to "IHOP's" (Intense Hour of Praise), the third Sunday of each month from 7-9:00 p.m. Join us for prayer, adoration, benediction, time for reconciliation, as well as social time for all.

Lastly, we are excited to be hosting our first ever "Prayer, Wine, and Canvas" and "Prayer, Cookies, and Canvas" events on November 21 and 22. These are great opportunities for adults and young people who want to spend time with friends in a prayerful setting while being artistic! Check our website at www.spiritualcenter.net for more information on these and all of our other events – or give us a call at 419-925-7625. We hope to see you this fall at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein!

MEMBERSHIP*Bob Dippold*

We deeply appreciate the Business and Family Members who have given us support over the years. Your support and that of the local banks, villages, and Township Trustees are vital to the continuation of our mission in this community. If you would like to become a member, please contact mcdo@bright.net or submit the attached form.

**MARION LOCAL SCHOOL NEWS***Mike Pohlman, Superintendent*

The school year has successfully started and we encourage all parents to check their students' progress through Progressbook, our online grading system. We encourage parents to take this opportunity to sit down with their children and discuss how their classes are progressing. Catching problem areas early is important in building a strong foundation for the rest of the school year. Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for November 11, 13, and 14, but please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher before this time.

This school year we are focusing on preparing our students for the next generation assessments and making sure that we are up-to-date with our computer hardware perspective. We just finished implementing changes from the Race to the Top initiative and we are looking to expand and refine our goals from the past four years. Finally, we are seeing more and more legislation and our goal is to prepare for changes that we will see in accordance to House Bill 487. We also have three goals that remain consistent every year and that is to increase student achievement, be fiscally responsible to our tax payers, and to continue building trust in our community. Recently we received the results from the district report card from the 2013-2014 school year. In regards to student performance we received an "A" rating and had a performance index score of 109.6 which is very good. This rating takes into account how well student achieve on the assessments. It is not just passing the test but also achieving advanced or accelerated. I want to show my appreciation to all Marion Local students, staff, and parents for their hard work.

We recently received a grant from Target that our former art teacher Shannon Painter-Carpenter applied for to purchase pottery wheels. Our Art club will now have the opportunity to expand their skills and have a great new learning experience. This summer we once again challenged our staff to a 200 mile challenge in 90 days. They could accumulate 200 miles through walking, jogging, or biking at a 3:1 mile ratio. I am proud to say that we had 22 accomplish this task and this is important with our overall goal of enhancing our wellness in order to be more effective at work and cut down on healthcare cost. We have welcomed many new staff members into the district this year and they have done a tremendous job. If you did not get a chance to meet them at open house please feel free to schedule a time to meet them at parent teacher conferences. We appreciate your support.

Go Flyers!

2014 - MEMBERSHIP FORM

Business Membership Dues: \$60.00 _____ Family Membership Dues: \$15.00 _____

Please indicate if you would like a receipt for tax deduction: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please circle any committees listed if you are interested:

MEMBERSHIP/PROMOTION
AG-DEVELOPMENT
PARK AND RECREATION

HEALTH/EDUCATION
LAND PLANNING
INFRASTRUCTURE

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
HOUSING
TOURISM sub-committee

COMMENTS: _____

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

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