

MCDQ

Marion Community Development Organization

WINTER 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: Marion Local FFA Advisor, Kara Uhlenhake recently applied for and was awarded an exclusive \$2,500 DuPont Pioneer Grant. Local Pioneer representative, Brent Bergman informed Ms. Uhlenhake concerning the availability of this grant. DuPont Pioneer offered grants to high schools to assist with the implementation of Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) in the 2014-2015 school year. CASE empowers teachers for student success by providing inquiry based educational experiences, which enhance the rigor and relevance of agriculture, food, and natural resources subject matter. Concepts are taught using activity, project, and problem based instructional strategies and build skills in the areas of science, mathematics, and English. Additionally, this effort ensures quality teaching by providing extensive professional development for teachers that leads to certification. Applicants needed to include a brief description of the AgriScience program at the school and how this grant will impact AgriScience education, along with a letter of support from the district superintendent. Congratulations Kara on this elite award!

Representatives from the Ag Ed Boosters, Athletic Boosters, and Band Boosters, recently met with the Marion Local Board of Education and Administration to establish a Facilities Committee for Marion Local Schools. These booster groups share concerns with the many facility limitations of our current campus. The mission of each of these groups is being adversely affected. The Facilities Committee will be meeting on a regular basis to determine the most effective approach to infrastructure investment that will enhance the quality education and extracurriculars at Marion Local. Many area schools already have or are planning improved facilities to meet their needs. The Marion Community needs to become aware of the current limitations as the Facilities Committee plots a course for investing in and enhancing the future of our children.

All are welcome at the monthly Ag Boosters meeting which is held at 8pm on the third Monday of the month in the Marion Local Ag Ed classroom. The next meeting will be held on January 19, 2015.

AGRICULTURE - Ag Solutions: Ag Solutions did not conduct a meeting in December. The next meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2015 and Greenleaf Advisors will be discussing the positive effects of lime/gypsum use. Greenleaf is seeking participants in trials they want to conduct in our watershed. Please strongly consider helping them with their efforts. To that end we would like to get as many practicing farmers to the meeting as possible. Meeting is 8pm, Monday January 5, 2015 at the Marion Township Library, Chickasaw, OH.

COMMUNITY REPORT – Industrial Park: Site preparation work at the Industrial Park addition is almost finished. Streets are paved, storm and sewer piping laid, and NKTelco has installed fiber optic cabling for internet, phone and TV cable hookups. The site contractor has some top soil that needs to be leveled and the project will be complete – ready for the new owners to start building.

This project, while taking some time, went extremely well. It is a perfect example of what can be accomplished when multiple government and community entities work together for a common purpose. As noted earlier, all the lots have been sold and after all the costs were paid, the MCDO was able to reimburse \$128,103.20 to the County Commissioners to reduce the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) loan. This initial contribution will allow this loan to be paid quicker and cause tax revenue to flow to our school, fire department and other entities sooner.

Thanks to all the good folks who have enough faith in our community to invest serious sums of money and everyone else involved. You all did a great job and it is much appreciated.

Chickasaw Water: Chickasaw continues to seek various funding avenues to pay for their proposed water facility. They are also looking at ideas which would allow them to get village water to the Industrial park addition as soon as possible.

NKTelco: NKTelco held a "Launch Party" at the Marion Township Building on Sunday December 7. Company representatives were very pleased by the turnout. They answered many questions and a number of locals signed up for service.

Media: Please visit our recently released website www.marioncommunities.com. Shelly Bohman with Graphic Communications did a fantastic job designing and implementing the site. The MCDO has contracted with her to keep it current. Please advise us if you have ideas or see anything that needs revision. Contact Shannon or I. In concert with the new website, we have new email addresses. Shannon's is admin@marioncommunities.com and mine is mcdo@marioncommunities.com. Also visit and like our new Facebook page www.facebook.com/pages/Marion-Community-Development-Organization-MCDO.

Annual Awards Banquet: This event is scheduled for Sunday, April 12, 2015 at the Maria Stein American Legion. Our keynote speaker this year will be Milt Miller. Milt is the manager of the Grand Lake St. Marys Restoration Commission (LRC). Milt has worked diligently with the MCDO and Ag Solutions to implement solutions that are acceptable to all involved. He always brings a unique perspective and a wry sense of humor to any issue. We will award two local businesses (to be announced shortly) with our annual Distinguished Developer Award and serve a delicious lunch.. Please mark your calendars for the event!

Membership: The 2015 Membership Drive is underway! The new 2015 Forms can be found at <http://marioncommunities.com/mcdo-membership.htm>. Membership for the year is \$15.00 for a family and \$60.00 for a business. Please contact Bob Dippold (419) 305-0128 or Shannon Everman (419) 925-5707 or email to admin@marioncommunities.com if you have any questions about the status of your membership. We greatly appreciate your support!

301/RECREATION CLUB

Kirk Stucke

The 301 Club is currently in the middle of the 2015 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 Kirk Stucke through email at mcelks2170@live.com, by phone at 419-733-6261 or any of the other committee members (Greg Nietfeld, Darrin Poepelman, Kurt Goettemoeller, Jason Winner, Eric Eyink, Craig Everman, Cory Albers, or Mitch Thobe).

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. Membership also entitles you to the appreciation party on January 16 after the boys' basketball home game vs. New Knoxville. Food and drinks are provided for all members and their families.

We would like to thank the 200+ members who have already renewed and look forward to seeing all of the 2014 members at the annual appreciation party. Members can also renew the night of the party. As in the past, prizes will be awarded throughout the night.

The 301 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. Our community and kids benefit and appreciate all your generosity.

MARION TOWNSHIP PARK

Ron Hartings / Michelle Hartings

Maria Stein Park Board appreciates the continued support over the years since the dawn of the park in 1997. Many projects have been completed to make it what it has become, which couldn't have been done without the support of the community. Beyond the early establishment, the Park Board would like to highlight some of the more recent developments that your support has, and continues, to provide.

Projects since 2010:

- ♦ Adding of west ball diamond including grading, chain-link fencing, benches, concrete foundations, brick dust
- ♦ Large playground
- ♦ Additional replacement trees
- ♦ Maintaining concession stand expenses for spring/summer sports at park
- ♦ Signage
- ♦ Volleyball court with the help of donations from memorials
- ♦ Materials for the maintenance of ball diamonds/assistance with soccer goal/field repairs
- ♦ Replacement of picnic table slats
- ♦ Disk golf with the help of business donations
- ♦ Materials for maintenance of equipment
- ♦ Utilities
- ♦ Event liability insurance

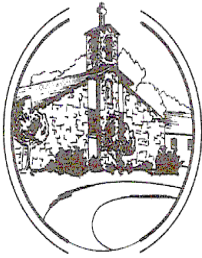
The funds for above are supported by these fundraisers throughout the year. Below is a listing of the income from each of these for the past two years.

	2013	2014
Countryfest:	\$9,918.48	\$7,946.06
Alumni Tournament:	\$8,856.87	\$7,119.70
Steinerstock:	\$3,244.66	\$400.56
Chicken/Pork Chop Dinners:	\$3,602.80	\$4,400.00

Again, thank you for your continued support!

There are also still monthly drawing tickets available. If you are interested in being added, please send \$30 donation to: Marion Township Park, PO Box 12, Maria Stein, OH 45860. \$50, \$30, & 2 - \$25 prizes are drawn monthly as well as the drawing at the annual soup appreciation party in August where \$200, \$100, and \$50 in prizes are drawn.

Current Park Board Members include: Ron Hartings, Bill Garman, Nancy Billerman, Keith Pohlman, Shelly Bruns, & Shelly Hartings. The Park Board typically meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month. If you have any comments or concerns, please feel free to contact us.



SPIRITUAL CENTER

Robin Goettemoeller

Was the last time you were at The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein when you were here for your Confirmation Retreat 20+ years ago? If so, we would like to personally invite you to stop by and see all of the changes that have taken place over the years. We frequently hear from area residents that they had no idea the facility was so big and that they didn't know we were so busy. A good portion of our business does come from out of the county; in 2014 we had over 10,000 people here for programs or retreats, however, we are still here to serve the people of this community. We employ nearly 30 people and enjoy meeting local people and doing things for the community, including working with local Scouts. We're finding that the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein seems to be a local hidden treasure. Even if you're not interested in coming here for a retreat or event, please take some time to walk the grounds and spend some time in quiet and prayer. We look forward to 2015 and hope that we will see you, whether it's here at the Spiritual Center, or out and about in the community. Blessings to all of you from the Staff and Board of Directors of the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein.

SHRINE OF THE HOLY RELICS

Don Rosenbeck

Above the chapel doors at the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics a sign reads "Enter devoutly oh Pilgrim". Over the past several months the Shrine has welcomed pilgrims from far and near, some with heavy hearts, seeking the comfort of their faith and others entering with wide eyed wonderment and enthusiasm.

During Advent and Christmas Seasons the Shrine staff welcomed dozens of children for the St. Nicholas program and hundreds of visitors to the 68 crèches from around the world. Each day folks visit bringing family and friends to what has been called "the hidden treasure in their backyard" for prayer and a brief tour. During noon prayer staff and visitors offer prayer intentions called in or sent from around the world through mail or internet. This prayer time begins at 11:45am and lasts about fifteen minutes, all are welcome to join us.

Currently the Heritage Museum on the 2nd floor is undergoing major renovation. This extensive project is possible due to the generosity of a local donor with projected completion date of late June. The new museum will offer six galleries with nearly thirty exhibits focusing on the religious sister's journey and service, as well as local history of the Land of the Cross Tipped Churches.

A new face to the Shrine is that of Diana Russell, who began December 1st in the role of fund development. Diana recently worked at the Cancer Association of Mercer County as organizer of fundraisers and survivor events. She lives in Montezuma with her husband and two children.

Please plan to visit the Shrine this winter, for quiet time in the chapel, for Saturday Mass, a tour, a visit to the Pilgrim Gift Shop or to take in a program. One such program of interest may be the "Armchair Pilgrimage to the Holy Land" with Dr. Anne McGuire who recently returned from a pilgrimage with Archbishop Dennis Schnurr where she provided the Liturgy and music for the group of eighty pilgrims.

Please like us on Facebook and check our website. Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9:30-6:00; Friday & Saturday 9:30 – 4:00 and Sunday noon to 4:00.



MARION LOCAL SCHOOL NEWS

Mike Pohlman, Superintendent

The first half of the school year is complete and our community has had a lot to celebrate. I would like to congratulate the football team for their fourth state championship in a row. It is very enjoyable to see our student athletes have success after putting in many hours of work. I would like to also congratulate our newly inducted National Honor Society students. The following students were inducted: Rachel Berning, Emily Bomholt, Kevin Bruns, Cory Heitkamp, Cadence Jacobs, Joe Schwieterman, Carla Smith, Ashlynn Berning, Shannon Bertke, Justin Bohman, Nicole Heckman, Nick Heitkamp, Kyle Homan, Chelsey Klosterman, Emily Mescher, Hannah Moeller, Derek Pieron, Alyssa Ruhenkamp, Nathan Saintignon, Michaela Tangeman, and Andrea Wynn. Congratulations to these students for this accomplishment.

We recently passed our permanent improvement levy in early November. On behalf of the Board of Education we would like to thank our community for their support of our district. This money is used for things that last longer than five years and is normally structural repairs. Currently we are keeping an eye on the roof at the elementary and developing a plan for its replacement.

The senior citizens Christmas luncheon was a huge success with approximately 195 guests and I would like to thank Barb Kahlig, Cindy Moeder and the kitchen staff, and the participating students from the Marion Local band that provided entertainment for our guests. It is great to celebrate Christmas with a meal and the senior citizens in our community. Lately I have been asked the question "Is anything differently being done with calamity days this year since we transitioned to hours instead of recording a set number of days. My answer, "There are some internal things being done differently in how we report to the state, but our students, staff, and community will not really notice a difference because we still intend to make up any days after using five calamity days."

Throughout the past six months I have been approached by many different staff, community, and booster members with concerns about our facilities. After a lengthy conversation with the Board of Education it was decided to form a facility committee in order to initiate a conversation with some staff members along with a representative from our three Booster groups. To learn more about what this committee is discussing, please read our next school newsletter or you can speak with one of the following committee members; Dave Moorman, Brenda Schwieterman, Kevin Hartings, Mark Hardesty, Trent Huelsman, Tom Moeder, Dan Koenig, Casey Layer, Nick Wilker, Tim Goodwin, Heather Cramer, Kara Uhlenhake, or Mike Pohlman.

It is good to finally begin the winter athletic season, and join me as we cheer on our Flyers!

2015 - 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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