



President's Message—Ted Bertke

Board Member Service Award: Bob Unrast retired from his Marion Township Trustee position as of January 1st. After so many years of service, Bonnie Garrison and the Trustees held a very nice surprise retirement party for him on Sunday, December 3rd at the Marion Township building. Along with the awards for Bob's years of service and retirement from the Trustees, the MCDO Board thought it was the perfect opportunity to honor Bob for his time, commitment, and dedication to the MCDO. For now, Bob is planning to continue on the Board as the Housing Representative. Thank you to all of our Board Members for volunteering to better improve the Marion Community by serving as representative of their distinctive area of expertise.



Memberships: The 2024 MCDO Membership drive begins in January. Memberships for the year are \$15 per family or \$60 per business. We greatly appreciate the support provided for memberships as your membership contribution is invested locally, for the benefit of all those living in this great community. The MCDO focuses on supporting infrastructure and business development, agricultural education for our students, and housing development. Other areas of support include various sports activities for the youth, Chapel Hill Preschool, Marion Local FFA, Carthagen Park, and Marion Township Greenway Bike Path.

2024 MCDO Membership Form

2 Membership Form Options:

- Complete the online form at <http://marioncommunities.com>.
- Complete and mail the membership form below.

| MCDO Membership Business \$60 / Family \$15 | | | |
|--|--|-------|--|
| Name: | | | |
| Address: | | | |
| City, State, Zip: | | | |
| Email: | | | |
| Phone: | | Date: | |

3 Payment Options:

- Please make checks payable to: Marion Community Development Organization
 - Please send remittance to: MCDO - PO Box 65 - Maria Stein, OH 45860
- Pay by Venmo - Username: @MarionCommunity-DevelopmentOrg
 - (Please include "MCDO Membership" in Description)
- Pay by Paypal: paypal.me/marioncommdeveloporg

Marion Community Develop...
@MarionCommunity-DevelopmentOrg



Marion Local Schools—Mike Pohlman

The first half of the school year is almost complete and our students have accomplished a lot both academically and in their extra-curricular activities. I would like to congratulate the Marion Local football team on their 14th state championship. What a great accomplishment for the players, coaches, and our community. We conducted our senior citizen luncheon on December 8th and we were able to celebrate the holidays with a meal and entertainment. I would like to thank Barb Kahlig for organizing this event, Renee Hartings, Deb Ruhenkamp, and the kitchen staff for preparing a wonderful meal. It is great to celebrate Christmas with the senior citizens in our community.

On behalf of the Board of Education, we would like to thank the Marion Local community for their support with the passage of our levy for new facilities. This was truly a community effort in which we had approximately forty community members serve on a task force that worked extremely hard to make recommendations to our Board of Education. They represented our community, gathered feedback, provided great input from their knowledge and experiences, and asked great questions. Below is a tentative timeline for the facility project.

| | |
|--|---|
| * <i>February—March 2024</i> | <i>Bond Issuance</i> |
| * <i>January—December 2024</i> | <i>Design</i> |
| * <i>March 2025—August 2026</i> | <i>Construction</i> |
| * <i>September 2026</i> | <i>Occupancy of new building</i> |

Marion Township Park—Lee Heitkamp

The Park Board is continuing to raise funds for the Shelter House project. The plan is to move forward as soon as the funds allow. The Park will continue to provide updated information via our Facebook page. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out via email at mariontwppk@gmail.com, Facebook page "Marion Township Park", X (Twitter) @MarionTwpPark, or contact Lee Heitkamp at 419-305-8238. Current Park Board members include: Lee Heitkamp (President – 419-305-8238), Eric Schroeder (419-296-8570), Jeff Wolters (Treasurer – 419-953-0373), Diane Alexander (Social media/email coordinator – 419-733-5968), Ryan Stucke (Rentals – 419-852-5088), Greg Hartings (419-852-8177), Jodi Winner (419-953-3290), and Renee Hartings (Secretary/Concession stand – 419-305-5530). Please use the QR code for additional information and to get access to the Donation Form. Thank you for your continued support of the Marion Township Park!



301 Club—Luke Bertke

The MCDO 301 Recreation Club would like to thank everyone for their continued support of our local parks and youth leagues. We are currently in the middle of the 2024 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 Luke Bertke through email at mcdo301.group@gmail.com, by phone at 419-953-6114 or any of the other committee members (Doug Bender, Matt Homan, Nick Boeckman, Wes Everman, Alex Moeller, Kyle Moeller, Brian Wolters or Aaron Timmerman).

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 Friday, February 9th after the boys' basketball home game vs. Coldwater. Food and drinks will be provided for all members and their families.

We would like to thank the 200+ members who have already renewed! In the past, many members renewed the night of the appreciation party. We ask that you please renew before then by returning the membership renewal form mailed to you or reaching out to a committee member. As in the past, prizes will be awarded throughout the night.

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 kids benefit and appreciate all your generosity. If you are a local youth coach or park board member with an upcoming initiative that may need extra funding, please reach out to us at mcdo301.group@gmail.com.

Zahn Marion Township Library—Juli Berning

Our library recently purchased 12 Launchpads and 8

Wonderbooks. Launchpad tablets are pre-loaded with learning apps, videos, and games. No downloads and no need for WiFi. Wonderbooks are children's books with a ready-to-play audiobook already inside. Stop in the library today and check one out!

Upcoming events:

- ◆ Tuesday, January 9th – Snow themed family night. Come join us and hear snow stories and make a snow globe craft. Starts at 6:30 pm, no pre-registration required.
- ◆ Thursday, January 18th -- Lego night from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Lego nights are held on the third Thursday of every month. No age limit, no pre-registration required. Parental supervision required for younger children as some pieces are rather small.
- ◆ Blind Date with a Book. Adults, during the month of February check out one of our wrapped mystery date books. Fill out the "Rate Your Date" slip and return it to be entered for a prize.
- ◆ Saturday, February 3rd – Take your child to the library day. Stop in 9:30 am – 11:30 am for some library activities and crafts to do with your child.
- ◆ Tuesday, February 13th – Valentine's day themed family night. Enjoy Valentine stories and make a valentine craft. Starts at 6:30 pm, no pre-registration required.
- ◆ Thursday, February 15th - Lego night from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Lego nights are held on the third Thursday of every month. No age limit, no pre-registration required. Parental supervision required for younger children as some pieces are rather small.
- ◆ Tuesday, March 12th – March family night. Come for stories and a craft. Starts at 6:30 pm, no pre-registration required.
- ◆ Thursday, March 21st -- Lego night from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Lego nights are held on the third Thursday of every month. No age limit, no pre-registration required. Parental supervision required for younger children as some pieces are rather small.

Don't forget.....

- ◆ Story time is held every Thursday morning at 10:30 am
- ◆ Senior Citizens play cards at the library every Thursday afternoon beginning at 1:30 pm
- ◆ Book discussion group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm. The selected book is available to check out at the library.
- ◆ Babysitters/Daycare providers—we can deliver library books right to you and pick up right from your location. We deliver however many books you want on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis along with coloring pages. Call the library at 419-925-4966 to sign up or for more information.
- ◆ Can you read 1,000 books with your child before kindergarten? Research shows the biggest predictor of school success is the simple, enjoyable act of reading together regularly from birth to age five. We invite you to take up the challenge to build life-long learners as you bond through books with this fun and easy program. Stop in the library for more information and to register your child.

All dates, times and information on all of our upcoming programs are available on our Face Book page. Just go to www.facebookZahnMarionLibrary and "like" our page. So come into the library today and check us out!

The Retreat House: Spiritual Centers—Robin Goettemoeller

The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein & Montezuma Retreat House are places to:

- ◇ Take time to rediscover yourself.
- ◇ Gain perspective.
- ◇ Spend time in quiet and prayer.
- ◇ Bring your youth group or parish staff or a retreat.
- ◇ Participate in day or overnight retreat.
- ◇ Strengthen your relationship with God.

Maria Stein Retreat Houses

- ◇ ADA-approved bathroom facility available on the main floor
- ◇ All rooms are handicapped friendly with pull bars in the bathrooms
- ◇ Elevator available on the premises
- ◇ 73 air-conditioned private rooms (60 with private baths, 8 with shared baths, and 5 that share a community bath)
- ◇ 3 separate dorm rooms accommodating up to 60 retreatants
 - ◇ Dorm A: 12 Beds
 - ◇ Dorm B: 16 Beds
 - ◇ Dorm C: 35 Beds

Montezuma Retreat Houses

- ◇ 6 private bedrooms
 - ◇ Room #1: 1 Full, 1 Twin
 - ◇ Room #2: 2 Fulls
 - ◇ Room #3: 1 Full, 1 Twin (ADA Compliant)
 - ◇ Room #4: 2 Fulls
 - ◇ Room #5: 2 Twins
 - ◇ Room #6: 1 Full
- ◇ 2 Dorms
 - ◇ Dorm A: 41 Beds
 - ◇ Dorm B: 20 Beds
- ◇ ADA-approved bathroom facility available on the main floor
- ◇ Ample parking
- ◇ Full gym with basketball and volleyball
- ◇ Large stage
- ◇ Board Room that seats 10 people
- ◇ Chapel that seats 120 people
- ◇ Dining Room that seats 120 people
- ◇ Single story, handicap-friendly facility

Mercer Health Marion Campus—Lisa Buschur



NOW OPEN

Mercer Health
Marion Campus

PRIMARY CARE **419-925-7177**

Heather Kleinhenz, MD • Brian Colopy, DO
Jennifer Luthman, CNP • Jodi Grover, CNP

Preventative care including wellness visits, routine screenings and sports physicals, sick visits, management of chronic conditions


Mercer Health
Medical Group at Maria Stein

OB/GYN & WOMEN'S HEALTH **567-890-6510**

Eric Seward, MD • Lori Geesaman, Women's Health NP
Jessica Bergman, Certified Nurse Midwife

OB: Reproductive health, pregnancy, postpartum care

GYN and Women's Health: Screenings, including pap smears, urinary tract issues, menstruation concerns, breast health, hysterectomy and hysteroscopy (done at Mercer County Community Hospital)


Mercer Health
Medical Group Obstetrics/Gynecology

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH **419-586-1220**

Heather Kleinhenz, MD
Jennifer Luthman, CNP • Jodi Grover, CNP

Employment physicals, drug and alcohol testing, injury management

Call for an appointment, same day appointments may be available.


Mercer Health
Occupational Health & Wellness

LABORATORY **419-925-7176**

Walk-in Mon.-Thurs. 7am– 7pm, Fri. 7am-6pm, Sat. 8am-12pm

Self-Directed: Does not require an order.

Another provider and/or location ordered: If ordered from another provider or location, your labs can be drawn here.

Marion Campus provider ordered: If ordered by a provider at Marion Campus, labs can be conveniently drawn that day (as long as fasting requirements are met).


Mercer Health
Laboratory Services

8106 Booster Dr. • Maria Stein, Ohio • 419-925-7175

Village of Chickasaw 2023 Annual Report—Nick Thobe

North Side Infrastructure and Streets

- ◆ The \$2.1 million infrastructure and street project on the north side of the village was completed in 2023. Cast iron water lines were replaced as well as the 8" main feeder water line going the length of the village from east to west. All streets north of St Rte. 274 were resurfaced with a total rebuild of Wayne Street. Storm drains and lines were upgraded in the Wayne Street area as well. Chickasaw Road/State Street from St. Rte. 274 to the bridge crossing Chickasaw creek was widened and resurfaced to accommodate increased truck traffic. ADA compliant crosswalk ramps were installed along St. Rt. 274. State routes 274 and 716 were resurfaced within the village limits. We also added speed limit radar signs at the entrances to the village on the state highways along with Welcome to Chickasaw village signs at all four entrances. We would like to thank all the residents affected by this project for their patience and cooperation. We hope the project serves you and our village for many years to come.

Village Hall and Offices

- ◆ An open house was held June 11 at the new village hall and offices. The offices are now at 89 S. Roosevelt St. next to the Fire Station. Renovation of the once stockyard dating back to the late 1800s was paid for with the funds from the sale of the former village hall at 38 Wayne Street. Additionally, the tornado siren was moved to the new location. Much of the labor for the renovation was donated. Thanks to all that helped in this effort. An Eagle project led by Trey Brookhart added a Village sign a flag-pole and the 1891 fire bell from the original village hall. Please feel free to stop by to see the new facilities. Village council meetings are the second Wednesday each month.

Grant St.

- ◆ The Village dedicated Grant Street, located off South of West Main St by the Ballpark, and added storm line infrastructure to support existing residents and future growth.

Parks

- ◆ The park board was very active in 2023 hosting a very successful community picnic June 2,3 & 4. The funds earned at the picnic once again have gone back into park improvements. In addition to the new big toy at the VFW park the park board added a new play area for kids where the volleyball courts were formerly. This area added a fence and should provide young families with a safe and fun area. They also added pickleball courts for those active young adults through seniors. The ball diamond park got a facelift when the aging scotch pines were removed. Thanks to the Park Board and all the volunteers that help make all these things happen.
- ◆ The Fire Department once again hosted a successful 5K run on Saturday morning of the picnic. The run brings in a variety of people and provides us a chance to highlight our village as they run through the streets.

Businesses

- ◆ The former village hall on 38 W. Wayne Street was purchased by Don Kemper and now the home of Wrenco Trophy and Sportswear. We want to welcome Wrenco and are excited to have them as part of the village. You can find them on Facebook at Wrenco Trophy and Sportswear.
- ◆ Chickasaw Machine & Tool has been undergoing a major addition.
- ◆ Four Star Veterinary Service has also added office space to its business located on Franklin St.
- ◆ Joe and Jean's Town Tavern celebrated 45 years of business.
- ◆ We would like to welcome Hess Home Renovations to the village, owner TJ Hess. Find them on Facebook at Hess Home Renovations.
- ◆ Mercer Landmark sold its property at the west end of the village. The parcel on the north side of St Rte. 274 was purchased by Ohio Recycling and the parcel on the south side of St Rte. 274 went to Kevin Homan family farming.
- ◆ The Chickasaw Community Mutual Fire Company recently added a new Ladder truck to serve the village and surrounding communities in Marion township. Check them out on Facebook at Chickasaw Volunteer Fire Department.

Things to Look for in 2024

- ◆ We are now on Facebook, Find us at Village of Chickasaw, OH.
- ◆ Electronic payment and email billing will be available.
- ◆ More infrastructure activity will be happening. The storm lines along Catholic Street from St Rte. 716 east to Chickasaw creek will be replaced and upgraded to a 15" line. The old lines are broken-down in many places and need an update.
- ◆ A second water line will be added from Booster Dr. in the Industrial Park to Dead End Rd. on the south side of St Francis subdivision. This will provide a looped water system to the village to optimize flows and quality.
- ◆ The final cast iron water lines will be replaced from the corner at Walnut and Maple Streets to the fire hydrant at Center Street by the alley next to Bob Heitbrink's. This activity will also result in storm tile replacement to upgrade broken down tiles.

Eagle Scout Project—Marion Township Greenway



Luke Budde, son of Mike & Shannon Budde, recently received his Eagle Scout certification. Luke is a Senior at Marion Local High School. His project was the construction and installation of two trash receptacles as well as the installation of two benches along the Marion Community Bike Path. Luke worked with Bike Path Committee members Randy Liette and Brad (Pac-Man) Knapke throughout the entire process. The Marion Community appreciates your efforts Luke... job well done!



A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year !