

## Marion Community Development Organization—Summer 2016



### *President's Message—Jim Keller*

**CELEBRATING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION:** On February 25, 2008, fifty plus individuals gathered at the Marion Township Library. They heard presentations about how an FFA/Ag Ed program could be reestablished at Marion Local. A resulting core group actively pursued the initiative and Ag Ed returned to ML in the fall of 2010. The program continues to be robust, providing state of the art education and training to our students. The Ag students have prepared a brochure highlighting the benefits of the program. To support these students and the program, the MCDO is featuring their brochure in our summer newsletter. Please review it and learn about this very positive development in our community.

**OTHER NEWS:** The continued building in the Industrial Park is most gratifying. We will be featuring the companies responsible in future correspondence and on our website. Lots for residential housing are available and we continue to have a steady stream of new homes being built. A front page story in the May 31<sup>st</sup> edition of the Daily Standard noted that Mercer County will continue to grow through 2030 in the key 20 – 39 age group. We're delighted that so many young couples want to return to Flyer Country and we're optimistic that the Marion Community will contribute its share to our county's growth.

Chickasaw continues to make progress toward its new water system. The MCDO Chapel Hill preschool is full for the fall term. Our school board and administration continues to pursue facilities enhancements. There is a high likelihood that the Tri Star Career Compact will be able to consolidate in a new facility close to the Wright State Branch Campus (See Mike Pohlman's update). Tri Star provides an effective alternative for students who learn better with "hands on" education. All these developments we've mentioned make our area a great place to live. They draw business and industry and we the MCDO strongly support all of them.

If you have a friend or relative living outside the Marion Community who might enjoy receiving an electronic copy of our quarterly newsletters, please provide Shannon Everman with their email address. Contact her at [admin@marioncommunities.com](mailto:admin@marioncommunities.com).

### *Marion Local Schools—Mike Pohlman*

It was an enjoyable 2015-2016 school year, as our district was blessed again with numerous accomplishments. I would like to congratulate all of them for their successes throughout the year. Congratulations to all of our 62 graduates who participated in commencement ceremonies on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

At the June 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, the Marion Local Board of Education announced their intention to pursue the options for constructing a new Auditorium, Gymnasium, and Agricultural Education complex. Discussions will continue on choosing an architect and creating a timeline to fund this project. All funding options will be considered including a levy, capital campaigns, grants, and utilizing our capital fund savings account which was just passed at tonight's Board meeting. The practice band field and concession/restroom facility are still being pursued and discussed. All funding options are still being considered for this also.

Recently I have been involved in the formation of a levy in regards to constructing a new facility for Tri Star. I would like to take this opportunity to present our community with some facts and information for you to be an informed voter on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Bob Heitbrink and Mr. Paul Gagel also serve on this committee to help inform our community about Tri Star.

- A positive vote for a 15 year 0.95 mill levy will fund a central Career Technical School that will house all of the Tri Star programs in one location instead of the current six locations. **Tri Star will remain a compact and not turn into a joint vocation school. Our students will still take their core classes at Marion Local High School.**
- All nine school districts will share in the cost and will have the opportunity to vote on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. If the majority of all voters select "yes" then the levy passes.
- The new location will be across the road from WSU Lake Campus.
- The levy would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$33.25 per year.
- The total project cost will be approx. \$25 million with the state share being approx. \$8 million and the local share being approx. \$17 million.

Even though school is out, it will still be very busy at both schools during the break. I would like to thank the community for their continued support of the Marion Local school district. This year was very successful and it is because of the collaboration we have with you. Mandatory shutdown this year is June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 10<sup>th</sup>. I hope you have an enjoyable and safe summer.

### *Marion Township Park—Ron Hartings*

The Park Board of Marion Township Park meets monthly. We continue to focus on improving and maintaining the park for our community. Fundraisers help support the park improvements and maintenance since we are not funded by a municipality. We thoroughly appreciate the help from those in our community through your attendance and patronage at events and continued donations throughout the year!

We have now updated to a new page on Facebook (Marion Township Park) and on Twitter (@MarionTwpPark). Please follow us for listings of future events and details. You can also contact us through email: [mariontwpk@gmail.com](mailto:mariontwpk@gmail.com).

We thoroughly appreciate the help from those in our community through your attendance and patronage at the Countryfest recently.

**MARION LOCAL ALUMNI TOURNAMENT**

**JULY 29, 30 & 31**  
at the Marion Township Park

**CO-ED SOFTBALL**    **CO-ED VOLLEYBALL**

contact Mitch Thobe @ 419-305-9951 to enter a team  
shirts awarded to 1st & 2nd place teams \*\* max 15 shirts

contact Diane Alexander @ 419-733-5968 to enter a team  
shirts awarded to 1st & 2nd place teams \*\* max 8 shirts

**CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT**  
Sunday, July 31st at 1:00  
\*sign up at park that weekend\*

**FOOD & DRINKS**  
brats, beer, burgers, wine coolers, hotdogs, pop, nachos, water

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
Friday: The Unknowns  
Saturday: DJ  
Sunday: games & music

All proceeds support the Park

**ML**

current projects  
scoreboard on diamond 3  
creating a sidewalk from St. Johns Rd. to concession stand

As always, there are 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 projects include recent scoreboard addition to diamond #3, mulching of 110 yards of mulch to playground areas and soon to be connecting sidewalk from St. John's road sidewalk to concession stand through middle of diamonds. This is a first phase to help us consider finding funding for a further walking trail around the park. We encourage your feedback. Pictures of aerial views can be seen on our Facebook page. Our goal is for additions to the park to be inclusive of all ages, so we would like to hear pros and cons from all age groups.

We are still looking into the replacements of the Ash trees removed and have not secured funding at this time to replace these. The stump grinding has been completed with seeding of these areas as appropriate. We thank you for your continued support.

If you have suggestions for the park's future, we welcome those discussions. Current Park Board Members include: Ron Hartings (President - 937-638-0534), Eric Schroeder (419-296-8570), Nancy Billerman (419-733-8668), Keith Pohlmann (567-644-5818), Shelly Bruns (419-305-8940), Nick Pavelka (419-852-3858) & Shelly Hartings (419-953-2569). Please feel free to contact.

**301 Club — Cory Albers** The 301 Club would like to thank everyone who has renewed their memberships for 2016. We would also like to welcome the new members that are joining us. It is because of all of our members that we are able to help support so many different summer programs and also assist the local parks with additional funds. If you have not received a renewal form in the mail or would like to become a member, please contact Cory Albers through email Cory.Albers@hotmail.com, by phone 419-733-3057 or any of the other committee members (Greg Nietfeld, Darrin Poepelman, Kurt Goettemoeller, Kyle Moeller, Brian (BJ) Wolters, Craig Everman, Kirk Stucke, or Mitch Thobe).

The summer sports programs are well underway for the 2016 season. We would like to thank all of the volunteers who help coach and assist these programs. We would like to especially recognize Ben Kramer for once again being the summer baseball program director. Our annual chicken dinner fundraiser is scheduled for July 10th, 2016. The pickup will again be at the

Marion Local High School between 11:00 and 12:30.

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 from your generosity.

**María Stein Shrine & Spiritual Center**

Our Lady of the Rock is situated on the front lawn of the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics. The story of Kloster Mariastein reveals a mother tending animals and falling asleep. Her son wandered off and fell from a cliff towards the valley some 150 feet below. Fearing the worst, the distraught mother climbed down and found the boy picking flowers. He said the flowers were for the beautiful Lady who caught him in her arms. Mother Maria Anna Brunner (foundress of the Sisters of the Precious Blood) made pilgrimages to Kloster Mariastein. Her son, Francis de Sales Brunner, was a Benedictine Monk and Precious Blood Missionary, and his early spiritual experiences and connection to the Kloster Maria Stein led to his naming the convent Maria Stein, in Ohio.

To learn further history of the Shrine and the local settlers, plan to visit the Heritage Museum at the Shrine all of which are open seven days a week. Mon.-Thur.: 9:30-6:00; Fri.-Sat.: 9:30-4:00 and Sun.: noon-4:00. Weekday tours are offer at 10:00am with custom tours and pilgrimages available by calling 419-925-4532.



**The Spiritual Center Of Maria Stein**

**"The Retreat House"**

2365 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein

**Let there be light!**

You may have noticed that the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein has recently added lights to the driveway and replaced the parking lot lights too. We hope this will assist people while they are here and make them feel safer.

Our summer schedule is filled with kids camps, band camps, adult retreats and many other things to help people strengthen their faith. Please check out our website or follow us on Facebook to see all of the activities taking place this summer and fall.

419-925-7625

www.spiritualcenter.net

## Why do we have an Ag/FFA program at Marion Local?

- Give students the opportunity to learn about science concepts
- The students learn more about the agricultural industry
- The students get the chance to network with other students from around the state/country
- The Ag/FFA program provides a place to develop character and become a well-rounded citizen
- Over 65 students are now enrolled in the program
- The program affects our district's budget positively by receiving career tech funding
- FFA at Marion Local allows our local community to have control over the quality of the program.

**The Marion Local FFA welcomes all high school students who want to learn more about becoming an effective leader, character building, or students who work better with hands-on activities.**

**Supporters of the FFA are also welcome to become a member of the Agriculture Education Boosters. Meetings for the Ag Ed Boosters are always the third Monday of every month.**



Contact Information  
 Marion Local Schools  
 Marion Local Ag. Department  
 1901 St. Rte. 119  
 Maria Stein, OH 45860  
 419-925-4294  
[elsassm@marionlocal.org](mailto:elsassm@marionlocal.org)  
 @MarionLocalFFA

*Did you know...?  
 The predicted population in 2020 is 7.4 billion people? How are we going to feed everybody?*

## Marion Local FFA



2015-2016 Officer Team

*Learning to do  
 Doing to learn  
 Earning to live  
 Living to serve*



## How does this program benefit the students?



- The students participate in the three circle model of the agricultural science:
  1. Instruction
  2. FFA
  3. SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience)
- These three areas of the program increase students' mastery of the knowledge, allowing them to interact with it in more complex ways
- Experiences in the program allow students to use the knowledge gained in the classroom in practical settings
- Encourages the development of confident and well-rounded students through many opportunities like competitions and conferences

## How does the Ag/FFA program benefit the community?

- Along with educating producers and consumers, the FFA chapter holds community programs and events to further educate the community and to give students leadership opportunities
- The Ag/FFA program provides skilled employees and entrepreneurs for our communities' needs and leaders that are important for our community to prosper
- This unique program creates dynamic leaders for the Marion Local community



FFA students distributing lap blankets they made for nursing home residents.

## Why do we need to support additional facilities?

- The current facilities do not have enough lab space to maximize the learning potential of the students



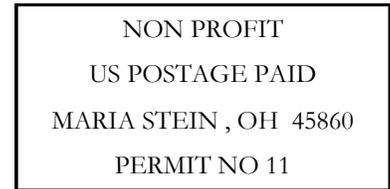
Agronomy students measuring growth on hydroponics systems.

- The science based nature of the program requires ample lab space to be effective
- A quarter of the student population in grades 8-12 are currently involved in the program and would benefit from adequate facilities





Marion Community Development Organization  
PO Box 65  
Maria Stein, OH 45860-0065



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## *Zahn Marion Library—Juli Berning*

Here's what's happening at the library. Our summer reading program is in full swing. You can still come in and sign up for the program which this year is titled "On your mark, get set...READ!" We are emphasizing sports and fitness within this program. To complete the program and receive a goody bag your child only needs to check out ten books. We have special programming every Monday at 1:30 and 3 pm where we have some special guests and we do a craft. Check out our Face book page each week or pick up a program in the library for the schedule. We also still have story hour every Thursday morning at 10:30 am. Adults and teens can also join our program just by checking out a book and can enter to win prizes, such as Cleveland Indians tickets, Kings Island tickets, COSI tickets, Maria Stein Dairy Station gift cards and much more. The end of summer reading party will be held on Thursday, July 28th at 1:30 pm at the Knights of St. John Hall in Maria Stein. This year our entertainment is "Greg Carson – Magician", this is also where we hand out the goody bags and prizes. Come join the fun!

Our 1000 books before Kindergarten program is up and running. Over 150 children have signed up to try and read 1000 books before kindergarten in this fun and easy program. Just stop in the library, register your child and track your reading on a paper that we give you. You can read library books or your books and count them each time they are read. Every time your child reads 100 books they receive a small prize. At 1000 books they receive a certificate and a free book. Stop in or call today for more information.

On Wednesday, August 24th we will be hosting Zachary Hoffman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) at 6:30 pm in the library basement. Zachary will be presenting the program "How the PUCO works for you". This program provides a broad overview of the PUCO and its services, including information on Ohio's Energy Choice program, assistance programs and how to get help with a utility related dispute or complaint. Participants are invited to bring in their utility bills and a PUCO representative will answer questions and help them navigate the confusion.

Check out our showcase in the library where each month we spotlight a different artist from the Lake Area Arts Group (LAAG). Also on display in our basement is a permanent display of artists' wall hangings.

Also new to the library is a mineral display cabinet with some minerals on loan from the Celina Library's Langsdon Mineral Collection. In 2006 Ron & Ruth Langsdon donated a substantial part of their personal rare mineral collection to the main library in Celina in order for future generations to learn and enjoy. They felt a public library would be an ideal location for all present and future generations. The collection consists of more than 900 minerals from all over the world in 21 display cases. A presentation about the minerals will be held at the Marion Twp. Branch Library in Chickasaw on Tuesday, August 9th at 6:30 pm. Participants will be given a mineral kit with minerals in sand and a gold miner's pan. Participants search for each mineral by color, shape, and texture. They also learn the history of the mineral, the mineral's use in industry, the mineral's crystal make up, and the mineral's origin. Children from age 8 and up and adults are invited to attend. Please register at the library by calling 419-925-4966.

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!