



President's Message—Jim Keller

CONGRATULATIONS – To our Marion Local Football team on yet another state championship this year. This is number 10 and their efforts are putting Marion Local and our area “on the map”. A couple of people on a sports blog noted that not only are ML kids great athletes, they also, per several groups that rate such things, excel in the classroom. Academic achievements are among the best in the state. What a fantastic reflection on our students, our school and our community!

SCHOOL ADDITION - Marion Local is considering some significant upgrades to our campus. The MCDO enthusiastically supports this project. These additions will provide yet another incentive for young families to live here, keeping our community growing, vibrant and strong. We want the Marion Community to be looked at as a great place to live and raise a family!

CALENDAR – The MCDO is strongly considering implementing a community calendar. The calendar would be coordinated by the MCDO with additional input from the school, and the Osgood and Marion Catholic clusters. This calendar would be the repository of all things happening hereabouts. Links to it would be available on any website that serves this community. There are a number of details to work through but we're optimistic that such a calendar can be implemented in early 2018. If you have some input please contact Shannon Everman at admin@marioncommunities.com

BIKE TRAILS/SIDEWALK – MCDO Infrastructure chairperson Nick Moeller is exploring funding for the bike path project he is pursuing. Ron Puthoff is mentoring him in approaches to applying for grants and working through the legal challenges involved with such an undertaking. We are progressing nicely with the SR 716 east side sidewalk project. The neighbors have agreed to self-fund the sidewalk and the Township Trustees have signed off on several ODOT required documents. Shout out to Jenny Jones and Rick Moeller, SR 716 residents who have done a yeoman's job of facilitating this initiative with their neighbors.

GOOD WISHES TO ALL – The MCDO wishes everyone a most Blessed Christmas and a great 2018. Thanks a ton for all your support.

Marion Local Schools—Mike Pohlman

The first half of the 2017-2018 school year is almost complete and our students have performed well in the classroom and in their extracurricular activities. The band brought home a superior rating at state, along with the football team bringing home our 10th state championship. I would like to congratulate everyone for a job well done.

On November 29th we had a community meeting to unveil the plans for a proposed facility project. I would like to thank those in attendance and I appreciate the great questions that allowed everyone to gain better insight on the scope of the project. For those not able to attend please do not hesitate to contact me at 419-925-4294 or you can email questions to pohlmann@marionlocal.org. A list of frequently asked questions and answers can be viewed on our website, www.marionlocal.org under the heading “Recent Announcements”. I would encourage everyone to read through this document to gain a better understanding. If you do not have access to the internet and would like to read this document, please stop in and pick up a paper copy from the central office. I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year. Go Flyers!



301 Club—Mitch Thobe

The 301 Club is currently in the middle of the 2018 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 Mitch Thobe through email at mitchell.thobe@gmail.com, by phone at 419-305-9951 or any of the other committee members (BJ Wolters, Luke Bertke, Nick Boeckman, Cory Albers, Kirk Stucke, Kyle Moeller, Matt Homan or Wes Everman).

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, January 12th after the boys' basketball home game vs. Versailles. 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 2017 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!

Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics—Don Rosenbeck

On December 8, 2017, the Sisters of the Precious Blood gathered in the Adoration Chapel of the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics to sign the transfer of land deed to laity. This process began nearly a decade ago and was solidified in October of 2016 when the Sisters announced their intent for the future of the landmark.

“After nearly ten years of planning and with the help of many people from the local area, the Sisters of the Precious Blood know that the ministry of peace, prayer and hospitality at the Shrine will be able to continue into the future without the direct involvement of the Congregation”, stated Sister Joyce Lehman, C.P.P.S., President of the Congregation.

The Shrine dates to 1846 and was the original motherhouse of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. It is the last of 10 foundations established by Missionary of the Precious Blood Father Francis de Sales Brunner. Many of these were located in the Land of the Cross Tipped Churches. The Sisters of the Precious Blood came with Father Brunner from Switzerland in the 1840s to minister to the German-speaking immigrants in west-central Ohio.

Today the Shrine is home to the second-largest collection of holy relics in the United States. The relic chapel, dedicated in 1892, has more than 1,000 relics including those from all four Gospel writers and all the faithful disciples. The finalization of the deed transfer on December 8th held great significance to the Sisters and Shrine staff.

“December 8 is an important date for the life of the Church. It celebrates the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the first follower of Christ. The Maria Stein Shrine is named for Mary of Rock, so it is fitting that an important Marian feast has been chosen to celebrate this unique moment in this Marian Shrine’s history”, stated Matt Hess, Coordinator of Ministries & Hospitality for the Shrine.

Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, assumed responsibility and operation of the Shrine on December 8, 2017. For generations, many families have been part of the Land of the Cross Tipped Churches and the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics. This is an opportunity to help keep the relics in Maria Stein and preserve this beautiful, sacred space for centuries to come.



“The letting go of such an important part of our history is difficult but is made possible knowing that the MSS Board of Directors and the administrator and staff at the Shrine are committed to keeping the Shrine a place where the faithful and seekers can find inspiration from the lives of those men and women who lived and died in service to God. The Sisters are grateful to all who have helped make this happen”, stated Sister Joyce.

The Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics provides opportunities for prayer, pilgrimage and inspiration from the lives of the saints. People from around the world visit the shrine to explore and enjoy this environment rich in holiness and history.

“It is a humbling and awesome responsibility for us to follow in the Sisters’ footsteps by accepting the duty of care for the Shrine”, said Don Rosenbeck, President of the Shrine. “We will continue to maintain it as a holy place for the faith nourishment and spiritual renewal of people from near and far”.

The Shrine is located at 2291 St. John’s Rd. in Maria Stein. To learn more about the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics, visit www.mariasteinshrine.org.



Marion Township Park—Lee Heitkamp

The Park Board of Marion Township Park meets monthly. We continue to focus on improving and maintaining the park for our community.

We received results of our proposal for a trails grant in November. Unfortunately, we did not receive the grant. We have attempted to receive feedback on how we scored as well as have considered any potential for resubmission. With each submission and writing, there are costs involved for a multitude of things such as collecting valid estimates and preparation of the grant writing. For this reason, and the feedback received, we have voted to take more time in preparation than the February 1st deadline allows for us this year.

Thanks to all who have and continue to support the park! We appreciate! We have completed a mass mailing to households in the Marion Community to encourage anyone who wants to become a park patron. It is evident that we will be making more soup for all the new patrons to attend the annual Soup Appreciation Party in late August.

There have also been a great deal of additional bricks to be engraved for \$50 donation. We are in the process of sending in a large batch for engraving just after the 1st of the year to be placed for this next season. Bricks forms with \$50 donation can be submitted at any time throughout the year (even after this first submission).

If you know of someone that may have been missed in the mailing and would like to become a patron of the park, please have them mail \$30 donation to PO Box 12, Maria Stein, OH 45860. Purchasing a brick requires completion of a form. Please contact a park board member if one is needed.

We are VERY grateful for the great support of this community and are currently reviewing/preparing for what we would like to accomplish this year with your generosity since the trails grant is on hold for at least this year. The addition of the sidewalk from St. John's Road to concession stand as well as the addition of the 2nd volleyball court this year has been getting a great deal of good use. The best part about completion is seeing it utilized by various age groups.

To note one of the maintenance items completed this fall... There were trees taken down during this past year that were a safety hazard. Stumps



have been ground for approximately an additional 30+ trees and park board members have been cleaning up the grindings with the help of Brett Griesdorn. The use of his lift trailer and time he spent in helping clean this up is appreciated! There are less than one third left to clear. We are hopeful to complete this before spring if weather cooperates.

If you have suggestions for the park's future, we welcome those discussions. Current Park Board Members include: Lee Heitkamp (President- 419-305-8238), Eric Schroeder (Eagle Scout project manager – 419-296-8570), Kara Ahrens (419-733-7774), Ryan Stucke (rentals – 419-852-5088), Nick “Shaggy” Pavelka (social media/email coordinator 419-852-3858), Jeff Wolters (Treasurer - 419-953-6863), Shelly

Hartings (Secretary/Concessions stand 419-953-2569), & Jesse Rose (419-305-6695).

Please feel free to contact. 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: mari-ontwppk@gmail.com.

Zahn Marion Township Library—Juli Berning

Did you know you can now check out high speed Internet at the library? The Mercer County District Library's Mobile Hotpot lending collection provides patrons greater access to the Internet away from the library and furthers the Library's mission to provide resources to serve the enrichment, enjoyment, and educational needs of the public.

The Library's Mobile Hotspots provide unlimited high speed Internet to patrons 18 and older. These hotspots are small (about the size of a deck of cards) and easily transportable. The devices allow patrons to connect their devices almost anywhere, whether at home, in the park, or on vacation. Patrons must have a valid photo ID and library card to check out a hotspot. The devices circulate for two weeks and are non-renewable. For more information stop by the library or visit our website www.mercerlibrary.org/hotspots.

Have you signed up your child or grandchild for our 1000 books before Kindergarten program yet? Over 242 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 or grandchild (birth to age 5 or 6) and track your reading on a paper that we give you. You can read library books or your own 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.

Stop in and see our new “reading nook” that was donated to the library. Located in the adult side, this seating area also has a spot to charge your electronic devices and complements our other new furniture that was added in June.

Join us for these upcoming events:

- Tuesday, March 27th—Judy Bruns will be here reading her new book “Thousand Dollar Baseball” about a young girl and her dad who become devoted fans of the Cincinnati Reds and of player Wally Post in the late 1950's. When their prized, autographed baseball finds its way into the girl's neighborhood ball game in Ohio, a problem develops. The story, as recalled by the now-grownup girl, author Judy Bruns, is told with tender, rhyming humor that reveals a child's love of the game. In addition, the book relives the nature of neighborhood friendships in a 1950's kind of way. Books will be available for purchase and will be signed by the author.
- Tuesday, April 24th—What's the Buzz? Why are honey bees important to the environment? How are the bees in a hive organized? What is the life cycle of bees? What do beekeepers do? How can we help honey bees and other pollinators survive? Come to the library at 6:30 pm as Ron and Carolyn Stucke explore these questions and more.
- First Thursday of every month – Mercer Health's Neighborhood Nurse is here from 1-3 pm. January 4th –blood pressure and blood sugar, February 1st—blood pressure and cholesterol, March 1st—blood pressure and colorectal test kits and April 5th—blood pressure and blood sugar.

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 and “like” our page. So come in to the library today and check us out!



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

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Memberships—Bob Dippold

It is time for the 2018 Membership Drive! Memberships will be due in January and the form is included below. Membership for the year is \$15.00 for a family and \$60.00 for a business. Thank you to all who have supported and continued to support the MCDO in 2017!

2018 MCDO Membership Form

Business Membership \$60.00 _____		Family Membership \$15.00 _____	
Please indicate if you would like a receipt for tax deduction: _____		_____	
Name: _____		Date: _____	
Address: _____			
City: _____		State: _____	Zip: _____
Phone: _____		Email: _____	

***Please make checks payable to: Marion Community Development Organization
Please send remittance to: MCDO - PO Box 65 - Maria Stein, OH 45860-0065***