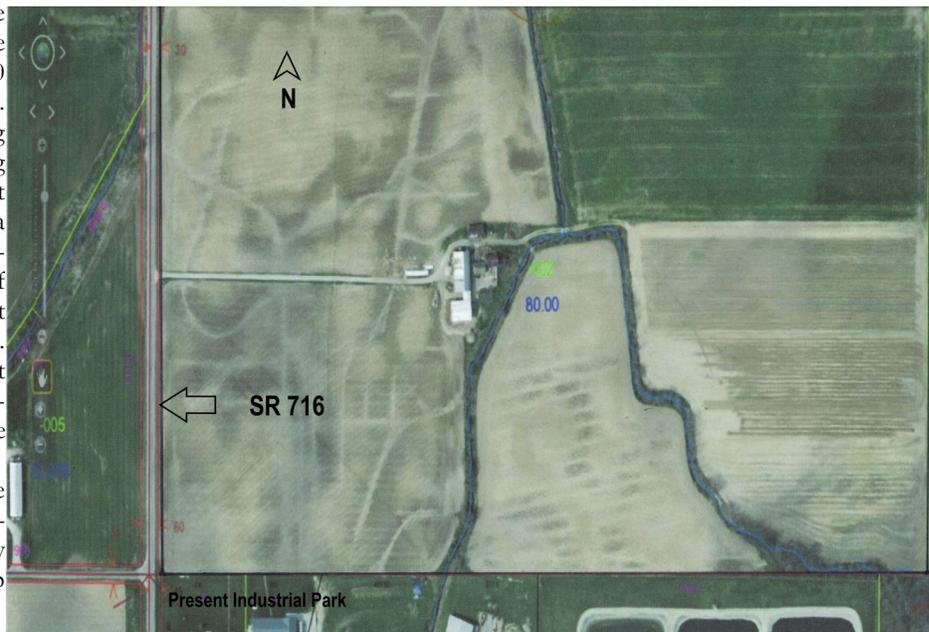




President's Message—Jim Keller

INDUSTRIAL PARK EXPANSION—In early 2017, a group of community minded folks came together with the goal of expanding our Industrial Park. They formed the Marion Community Land Development, LLC. They diligently pursued the acquisition of some neighboring acreage and were able to complete the purchase in mid-November 2018. See the attached aerial view of the property. These 80 acres, which are just north of our existing Ind. Park will provide space for new and expanding businesses. We are delighted that we live among such visionary people who are willing to invest serious personal money in our community. At a recent meeting, Jared Ebbing, our Mercer County Development Director, noted that this sort of individual investment in a community project could only happen in one of Ohio's 88 counties. He further added that it might only happen at one place in Mercer County; that being the Marion Community. An insight that we can all take great pride in!

Building lots are being laid out to reflect the wishes of several businesses which have expressed interest. If you need space for your new or growing business, please call Dan Heitkamp at (419) 925-4307.



SPEAKER—Our Ag Ed Boosters have scheduled a speaker for January 22, 2019. See details on page 2 of the newsletter.

OTHER PROJECTS—We continue to work with Safe Routes to School, the multi-use path initiative, public gas and the SR 716 sidewalk.

MCDO MEMBERSHIP—It is time for the annual MCDO membership drive. Please see the back page for the new membership form and information. We greatly appreciate your support in 2018!

GOOD CHEER—We hope that everyone had a Joyous Christmas and that 2019 is filled with abundant blessings for all the good folks in the Marion Community!

Marion Local Schools—Mike Pohlman

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 another state final appearance and likewise with our band. It is very enjoyable to see our students have success after putting in many hours of work. I would like to congratulate our newly inducted National Honor Society students. The following students were inducted this fall: Emily Brunswick, Gace Knapke, Nick Tangeman, Abby Bergman, Ashley Bergman, Kyle Bruns, Katelyn Hartings, Maria Heckman, Reece Hess, Brooke Homan, Spencer Homan, Derrek Kemper, Alex Klosterman, Jacob Knapke, Kelsey Koenig, Natalie Kramer, Cody Kunkler, Emily Nietfeld, Hope Ranly, Hannah Schmitz, Lauren Wolters, and Leanne Wolters. Congratulations to these students for this accomplishment.

The senior citizens Christmas luncheon was a huge success with approximately 150 guest, and I would like to thank Barb Kahlig for organizing this event, Renee Hartings, Cindy Moeder and the kitchen staff for preparing a wonderful meal, and the Marion Local band and choir that provided entertainment for our guest. It is great to celebrate Christmas with the senior citizens in our community.

We recently obtained a grant from the state for school safety. We are using these grant dollars to offset the cost of installing security cameras at the elementary school. We have had security cameras at the high school for approx. 14 years. We will continue to work on upgrading our facilities this spring and summer as we have plans to reseal and stripe our parking lots, and possibly replace some entry doors.

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



Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics—Don Rosenbeck & Susie Bergman

New Year Blessings from Maria Stein Shrine! We hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season with your loved ones. We look forward to sharing the joy of 2019 with all of you! Mark your calendars for the following events:

- January 27th** we invite you to join us for our *St. Dymphna Prayer Service* at 2pm in the Adoration Chapel. We will pray for those afflicted with mental health issues, including the common “winter blues”. The Service will include witness and relic veneration.
- February 10th** *Italian Night at the Shrine* begins with an Italian style dinner including red wine. Matt Hess, Director of Hospitality & Ministry, will share highlights from his “Roman Holiday” last September, which will include the holy sites, special saints, attractions pertaining to our Precious Blood heritage and witty antidotes from his adventures. \$25 per person.
- February 17th** join us for this important night of *Prayer for our Priests* for the support of our holy priests, who tirelessly labor in our communities. Bishop Joseph Binzer will preside at Sung Evening Prayer and exposition of Blessed Sacrament. Vigil will be kept in the Chapel after the service for the success of the meetings Pope Francis will have in Rome later that week with the heads of the various National Councils of Bishops.
- March 5th** we will kick off the Lenten Season with a *Shrove* (Fat Tuesday) pancake dinner at 5:30pm. RSVP is required as seating is limited. More information regarding this dinner will be posted on our website closer to the date. This event will also include the ceremonial Burying of the Alleluia.

We will once again offer the travelling relic of the True Cross during Lent. Contact Matt at m.hess@mariasteinshrine.org to request at your parish.

The Pilgrim Gift Shop will hold their Annual First Communion Sale in early March. Parish DREs will receive information regarding the sale in early February. To make sure your parish is on the list, contact the Gift Shop at giftshop@mariasteinshrine.org.

Don't forget...The Upper Room is available to rent for your anniversary and birthday parties, baby and bridal showers, family reunions and corporate events. It's more than a space – it's an experience! To schedule a private tour of the Shrine, find volunteer opportunities or up to date event information, visit us online at mariasteinshrine.org!

301 Club—Brian Wolters

The 301 Club is currently in the middle of the 2019 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 Brian Wolters through email at woltersbj@gmail.com, by phone at 419-305-6014 or any of the other committee members (Mitch Thobe, 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 18th after the boys' basketball home game vs. Minster. Food and drinks are provided for all members and their families.

We would like to thank the 170+ members who have already renewed and look forward to seeing all of the 2018 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 Local Ag Boosters

Marion Local Ag Boosters presents

Ben Brown

**Ohio State University
Program Director of Farm Management**

**Tuesday, January 22
7:30 PM**

Maria Stein American Legion Hall

Emerging issues in today's farm economy:

- Tariff disruption of grain trade
- Grain Marketing
- New Farm Bill
- Starting an Agricultural Business / Career at a young age



Open to the general public of Marion Local and all surrounding communities. Youth with an interest in agriculture are encouraged to attend!



Zahn Marion Township Library—Juli Berning

Zahn-Marion Twp. Branch Library through the Mercer County District Library is now offering cardholders free access to online educational courses from Lynda.com. This service has more than 12,000 courses, ranging from computer programming to project management including instruction on various computer software, programming languages, and business topics. The video courses are taught by industry experts and are designed for any skill level. This is free to patrons, so if you have an account with us all you need is your library card number and PIN. You can access Lynda.com inside or outside the library, from any device with an internet connection. Providing Lynda.com is another way that we are supporting the local community and small businesses in our area. Whether you are a professional wanting to sharpen your skills, or an amateur starting from square one, Lynda.com can provide the instruction you need. And, it's free with your library card. So check us out!

Come and join us at the library for these upcoming events:

- Tuesday, January 8th – Polar bear family night. Come join us and hear stories about polar bears and make a polar bear craft. Starts at 6:30 pm, no pre-registration required.
- Saturday, January 12th – Blast off the new year with our “Donuts with Dads” day. Stop in and enjoy a donut with your dad (or mom), make a craft, check out some books and socialize.
- Tuesday, January 15th – Essential Oils and Women’s Health (with a few tips for Valentine’s Day). 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Presented by Nancy Kremer.
- Thursday, January 17th -- 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.
- Saturday, February 2nd – Take your child to the library day.
- Saturday, February 9th – Donuts with Dads day. Stop in and enjoy a donut with your dad (or mom), make a craft, check out some books and socialize.
- Tuesday, February 12th – Valentine’s Day themed family night. Enjoy Valentine stories and make a valentine craft. Starts at 6:30 pm, no pre-registration required.
- Tuesday, February 19th – Essential Oil Basics – Top 10 oils, usage and safety—finish the winter strong! 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Presented by Nancy Kremer.
- Thursday, February 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.
- Saturday, March 9th– Donuts with Dads day. Stop in and enjoy a donut with your dad (or mom), make a craft, check out some books and socialize.
- Tuesday, March 12th – March family night. Come for stories and a craft. Starts at 6:30 pm, no pre-registration required.
- Wednesday, March 20th – Essential oil bingo. Cover the board, win prizes and learn individual oils. 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Presented by Nancy Kremer.
- 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.
- Tuesday, March 26th – Join us as we welcome back, professional organizer, Olive Wagar. “Organize Your Kitchen & Reclaim Your Life!”, an Organized by Olive Presentation. 6:30-7:30 pm. Maximize storage. Minimize stress. Enjoy using your kitchen again!

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 into the library today and check us out!

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.

The park board held the annual park patron appreciation soup party in late August. We had a wonderful turnout and appreciate everyone’s continued support.

There have been a few small projects that have been completed this fall. Landscaping was redone by Pleiman Landscaping around the entrance sign. Following the soccer season, tile lines across the park were filled back in after several years of settling. Grass will be planted in the spring.

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 (419-296-8570), Jeff Wolters (Treasurer – 419-953-6863), Nick “Shaggy” Pavelka (Social media/email coordinator – 419-852-3858), Ryan Stucke (Rentals – 419-852-5088), Jesse Rose (419-305-6695), Kara Ahrens (419-733-7774), and Renee Hartings (Secretary/Concession stand – 419-305-5530).

Please follow us on **Facebook (Marion Township Park)**, on **Twitter (@MarionTwpPark)**, or email us at mariontwpk@gmail.com.

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

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MCDO Memberships—Bob Dippold

It is time for the 2019 MCDO Membership Drive! Thank you to all those who you have supported the MCDO in 2018! 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 at admin@marioncommunities.com if you have any questions about the status of your membership.

2019 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: _____ (to be used for minutes distribution)	

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