



## ***President's Message—Jim Keller***

**MARION COMMUNITIES WEBSITE:** I'm not sure when the MCDO set up the first Marion Communities website. It was at a time when making updates and modifications were quite challenging. As time progressed, only an individual or two that worked at Marion Local knew how to do it. The website became so outdated that it offered little useful knowledge to anyone who visited it. We contracted with Shelly Bohman at Graphic Communications to set up an up-to-date, fully functioning, easy to use and modify website. This was completed by the end of 2014.

If you've never taken a test drive on <https://marioncommunities.com/> please do so. We're proud of the website since it provides the visitor with a great perspective of who and what we are in MCDO land. It even includes a community calendar. Early this year, Shelly updated the website to be "mobile first" which allows device (Cell phones & iPads) users to more easily browse it.

Shelly donated most of her time to accomplish this. She continues to make modifications for a modest maintenance fee. We are very pleased with and appreciative of her outstanding work and dedication to our community.

The MCDO also spent considerable time providing Shelly with the information you see on the site. We're asking today if you are a business or organization in the Marion Community please visit our site to assure that the information about your entity is current and correct. Send your updates to [admin@marioncommunities.com](mailto:admin@marioncommunities.com) We are dedicated to the never ending task of keeping the site up-to-date and sure could use your help to do so. Thanks!!

**INDUSTRIAL PARK EXPANSION:** Stakeholders from the community and the county continue to meet to discuss plat layouts and schemes to finance the infrastructure required to develop the recently acquired 80 acres into a viable place to locate a business. Infrastructure will be financed through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and hopefully some grants. A TIF means that all tax revenue from the Park pays for the infrastructure. Taxes normally flowing to the school, township and fire department are redirected until the TIF is paid off.

A recent MCDO conducted survey reflected that 296 full-time people are employed by businesses located in the Industrial Park. Adding in part-time, contractor and off-site brings the total to 528. Remarkable!

**MULTI-USE PATH** – Infrastructure chairperson Nick Moeller reports: *The Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) District 13, has approved for funding the Marion Township Greenway project with a grant for \$869,500. They also endorsed four other projects in Allen, Logan, Putnam, and Van Wert Counties. The next step is a review for eligibility by the Ohio Public Works Commission who administers the Clean Ohio – Green Space Conservation Program. When granted, the award letters will go out in the next few months. Thanks too to the many organizations, businesses and individuals for the letters of support which were part of the approved grant application.*

*The Marion Township Greenway project will require local funds of \$305,500. With many generous donations already pledged, local funds committed have reached over \$154,000. This project would not be possible without the generosity and support of many organizations, businesses and people, all which help make this community incredible!*

*The Marion Community Multi-Use Path committee volunteers are preparing the Marion Township Greenway Founders' Brick Club pledge program. Be part of the foundation of an incredible project for our community with a minimum commitment of \$100 per year for 5 years. We will mail the pledge forms should the approval process go well, and after the award letter is received. Look for it in the mail this spring.*

*Mark your calendars for two great bike tour events – the first ever Countryfest Bike Tour will be held at the Maria Stein Countryfest on Sunday 6/24/19 at 9 am. The Pac-Man Party in the Park Bike Tour will be held on 9/29/19 at 9 am at the Marion Township Park.*

This is great news and kudos to Nick and those who helped with this accomplishment. More info will be forthcoming on this project as it develops.

**THANKS** – for your membership and continued support. Most appreciated!

## ***Marion Local Schools—Mike Pohlman***

In regards to the weather, this winter has been interesting. I see brighter days ahead and hope delaying and cancelling school is behind us. We currently have two days to make-up and they include Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. I appreciate your understanding and flexibility with the changes to our school calendar.

We recently received funding from the state to put towards safety and security. We decided to use these funds to offset the cost of security cameras at the elementary school. Our elementary building has never had security cameras and it has been on our radar for many years. Thanks to this grant, we decided to take the steps necessary to install this system. It has been a great addition and provides an added level security.

***Marion Local Schools (continued)*** We also received a large grant from the Bureau of Workers Compensation that can be used for safety and security. We made the decision to upgrade our security cameras at the high school that were installed approx. 12 years ago, and purchase a secured key card entry system at particular outside doors at both the high school and elementary. This work will most likely be done early this summer. We are working hard to provide a safe learning environment for the students in our community. I want to express my appreciation for the state funding we received and the grant from the BWC for allowing us to do this in a costly manner.

The Board of Education and administration are continuing our quest to receive more valuable feedback in regards to the facility and failed levy. The feedback we received has been very good, and we appreciate your honesty and professionalism. We look forward to working with you to determine what our community desires.

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

Spring Renewal: The promise of spring and the upcoming Easter holiday serve as reminders that renewal is a powerful and wonderful concept in our lives. Every year we see the end of a cold winter with the blossoming of springtime. Beautiful plants and trees begin to bloom, as the nature that God created is renewed with life. And every Easter, we are reminded that through the gift of atonement, we can refresh our spirits. In His wisdom, God gave us the capacity for spiritual renewal.

We invite you to join us at the Shrine this spring, to renew your faith through the inspiring lives of the saints. Mark your calendars for the following events:

### **FREE EXHIBITS: THRONE OF WISDOM & EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES**

There are currently two free exhibits on display at the Shrine. The Throne of Wisdom Madonnas is on display in the Upper Room and the Eucharistic Miracles posters can be seen in the museum annex on the second floor. Both will be available through June 2019.

### **MARCH 26: ADORATION GUILD LEARNING SERIES PART 1 | 10AM & 7PM**

Presented by Sr. Joyce Ann Zimmerman, C.P.P.S., the first session, Sin & Confession is a reflection on the Cross, our own sinfulness, and God's faithful offer of forgiveness.

### **APRIL 11: ADORATION GUILD LEARNING SERIES PART 2 | 10AM & 7PM**

Presented by Sr. Joyce Ann Zimmerman, C.P.P.S., the second session focuses on reconciliation and the Sacrament of Penance. In a world so torn by broken relationships, reconciliation is a gentle nudge to wholeness and unity. The Sacrament of Penance is a blessed opportunity to receive the sacramental sign of God's forgiveness.

### **APRIL 14: ST. PEREGRINE CANCER PRAYER SERVICE | 2PM**

Join us for relic veneration, witness and scripture as we pray to St. Peregrine for the healing and remission of those suffering from cancer.

### **APRIL 30 - MAY 28: SCRIPTURE & THE ROSARY BIBLE STUDY | 7PM**

Join us every Tuesday, starting April 30, at 7PM for a bible study on scripture and the rosary. \$25 per person (includes workbook and study guide). RSVP by April 1, 2019 to [m.hess@mariasteinshrine.org](mailto:m.hess@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](http://mariasteinshrine.org).

## ***Spiritual Center—Robin Goettemoeller***

Many things will be taking place this Spring at the Spiritual Center Retreat Houses in both Maria Stein and Montezuma! We hope to see you at one or both locations!

### ***Ongoing events at the Montezuma Retreat House location (6731 State Route 219, Montezuma) include:***

- Soul Core Exercise Classes - every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. and every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
- Al-Anon meetings - every Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
- SMART Recovery meetings - every Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

### ***Other events taking place this Spring include...***

- Tuesday, April 9 and Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. there will be Healing Liturgies at the Maria Stein Retreat House Chapel.
- Tuesdays April 9, May 14, and June 11 Scripture and Sharing Healthy Meals Classes with K will be taking place at the Montezuma location. Check online for registration information and more details.
- Spiritual Survivor will take place April 10 from 7-8:30 p.m. outside at the Maria Stein Retreat House.
- Monday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a Respect Life Healing Mass in the Maria Stein Retreat House Chapel.
- Pre-Cana will take place at the Maria Stein location Saturday, April 27 and Saturday, June 15 for engaged couples.
- A Modern Brush Calligraphy class will be held at the Montezuma location on Saturday, May 18 from 10-noon.
- Bosco Boys Camp will take place at the Montezuma location June 27-29 for 7th-9th grade boys.

Please check our website [www.spiritualcenter.net](http://www.spiritualcenter.net) or our Facebook page for more information or to register for any of the following events. Happy Spring! 🌱

## *Zahn Marion Township Library—Juli Berning*

Here's what's happening at the library.

What happens when students stop reading over the summer?

- 1,500 dollars is the estimated cost per student that is lost due to re-teaching material forgotten over the summer.
- 2-3 months of reading & math skills are lost over the summer.
- 2-3 hours of reading per week are needed over the summer to prevent learning loss.
- 4-6 weeks needed of re-teaching material students have forgotten over the summer.

What can you do to help your child? Sign up for our summer reading program. Your child could win prizes, have fun and it is a great opportunity for family time. This year's theme is "A Universe of Stories" and will begin in late May. Our kickoff program will be on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 pm and will be presented by the Armstrong Air & Space Museum. More information will be handed out at school or available in our library starting in late May.

Join us for these upcoming events:

**Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>** —Easter Family Night. Join us for Easter stories, songs and a craft. Family night is held on the second Tuesday of every month (with the exception of August) at 6:30 pm. No pre-registration is required—just come on in.

**Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** – Essential Oils -- Emotional Rollerball Make and Take at 6:30 pm. Learn how essential oils can affect our mood and emotions. Pick from 5 make and take blends to release negative emotions and 5 make and take blends to embrace positive emotions.

**April 8-14<sup>th</sup> – National Library Week.** "Libraries = Strong Communities" is the theme for National Library Week which is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. Kids can stop in and guess who our local readers are for a chance to win a \$10 Dairy Station gift certificate. Come in the library during this week for other fun activities to do!

**Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**—Lego night from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Lego nights will be held 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.

**Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** –Trivia on Tap. Get your teams together for "Trivia on Tap" which the library will be hosting at the Moeller Brew Barn. Sign up is at 7:30 pm with trivia beginning at 8 pm. No fee to enter. Prizes will be awarded.

**Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>** – Essential oils – Get your vehicle ready for summer—6:30 pm. Make and take on window cleaner, interior protectant, carpet and upholstery stain remover, and hanging air freshener. No need to breathe chemicals while cleaning your car.

**Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>** – Family night. Join us for stories, songs and a craft. Family night is held on the second Tuesday of every month (with the exception of August) at 6:30 pm. No pre-registration is required—just come on in.

Don't forget Thursday morning story hour every Thursday at 10:30 am and our senior citizens play cards here at the library every Thursday afternoon beginning at 1:30 pm.

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!

## *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.

Pleiman Landscaping has completed the dirt leveling of tile lines across the park after several years of settling and grass will be planted in these areas.

With baseball and softball seasons starting soon, the Park Board will be re-opening the restrooms in time for use during practices.

Looking ahead, we look forward to seeing you at this year's Alumni Tournament scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars to attend!

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 [mari-ontwppk@gmail.com](mailto:mari-ontwppk@gmail.com).

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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](mailto: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: _____<br>(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***