



President's Message—Ted Bertke

ANNUAL COMMUNITY ADDRESS CANCELLED: The Annual MCDO Community Address and Banquet that was scheduled for Sunday, April 19th, 2020 has been **cancelled**. We will honor the Distinguished Developer, Buchur's Custom Farm Service, Inc. and the Distinguished Student, Tom Evers at a later date. Thank you for your support with the MCDO!

MARION TOWNSHIP INDUSTRIAL PARK: As many of you have been able to see, construction of Phase IV of the Marion Township Industrial Park has begun. The anticipated completion date for the infrastructure is Summer 2020. There are still lots available to purchase. For more information on the availability of these lots, please contact Dan Heitkamp at 419-925-4307 or Gary Moeller at gary@moellertrucking.com.

The MCDO would like to wish you and your families health and safety during this difficult time!

Marion Local Schools—Mike Pohlman

fortitude (noun)

definition: courage in pain or adversity.

During this time the word "fortitude" comes to my mind when I think of the Marion community. Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and orders from Governor Mike Dewine, Marion Local has closed for the mandatory three week period which began on Tuesday, March 17th. We can potentially resume back to school on Monday, April 6th if the order has not been extended. Each day we listen to the updates from Governor Dewine and our state and local health department. I can assure you we are doing our best to keep our students and staff safe while not inducing any panic or fear. Things may get worse before they get better, but I can assure you we will recover and bounce back even stronger.

During this 3 week period our teachers will instruct students through distance learning. Our goal is to offer meaningful assignments so our students can still receive a quality education. These assignments will offer more flexibility for our students in regards to the time of day when they are completed. Students in grades 3-12 will be using Google classroom and will be asked to check for instructions from their teachers. Students in grades K-2 will be given "work" books, worksheets, etc... with instructions from their teachers.

OHSAA has also postponed all sporting events and asked each school district to have a "no contact" period with athletes. We were also asked to shut down our athletic facilities. At this time OHSAA is still working on a creative solution without closing the door completely. (This is the status at the time of writing this article.)

I want to publically express my appreciation to the staff at Marion Local. These unprecedented times that are filled with uncertainty, have been handled extremely well. Our students and parents are to be commended also for their willingness to take on this new endeavor of remote learning. This was a very quick turn-around and I thank everyone for embracing it with open arms. We will all learn as we go and I appreciate your understanding. Our custodial, kitchen, and bus driving staff is in the process of disinfecting our school, cafeteria, and buses. We may get a jump start on summer cleaning already this spring.

The Marion community is extremely supportive of our school district. If there is anything you believe the school could assist our community with in these unprecedented and uncertain times, feel free to contact us. I am looking forward to when we will be back in session with all students and staff together again.

Zahn Marion Township Library—Juli Berning

Effective Wednesday, March 18th all Mercer County District Library buildings were closed to the public. Limited staff will be working in the library buildings to answer phone calls and some services are still available to patrons including these FREE resources:

- ◆ **Curbside pickup** at all four library locations during regular library hours.
 - ◆ Call the library (419-925-4966) or our curbside pickup hotline (567-510-5441)
- ◆ Wi-Fi access within approximately 200 feet outside all four library locations.
- ◆ Online resources/Apps (mercerlibrary.org/apps) – download the following apps from your app store.
 - ◆ SEO Libraries App
 - ◆ Manage your account, search the catalog, renew and reserve items to have ready for pickup, and have access to eBooks and audiobooks.
 - ◆ Libby, by OverDrive
 - ◆ Log in with your library card to unfold access to thousands of items including ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines for all ages. You can borrow them, instantly, for free, using just the device in your hand.
 - ◆ Lynda.com
 - ◆ Sharpen your skills with access to over 6,600 expert video tutorials, on software, digital arts, marketing, business, and 100's of more topics.

Depending on when we re-open to public, here are our upcoming events:

- Tuesday, April 13th —Family Night. Join us for stories about butterflies and caterpillars, 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.
- Thursday, April 16th—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.
- April 19th to 25th – National Library Week. “Find Your Place at the Library” 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. Come in the library during this week for fun activities to do!
- Thursday, April 23rd –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.
- Tuesday, April 28th – Essential Oil night. 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Presented by Nancy Kremer.
- Tuesday, May 12th – 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 it.

Sign your child up for our summer reading program “A Universe of Stories” which will begin in late May. Lots of free activities and prizes!

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 Facebook page. Just go to 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.

Recently, park board members voted to approve the installation of a batting cage by the softball committee near diamond #2 (softball diamond.) We are hopeful this is completed for use for at least a portion of this upcoming season. The renovation to the batting cage near diamond #4 by the baseball committee also continues and is estimated to be completed for use by the start of the season.

With both the baseball and softball seasons starting soon, the Park Board will be re-opening the restrooms in time for use during practices. We would like wish all softball and baseball teams the best on their upcoming seasons!

Looking ahead, we look forward to seeing you at this year's Alumni Tournament on the park grounds July 24th, 25th, and 26th. 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 mariontwpk@gmail.com.

301 Club—Nick Boeckman

The MCDO 301 Recreation Club hosted their Appreciation Party at the Maria Stein Legion on Friday, January 24th after the home boys' basketball game vs. Delphos St Johns. Entertainment, food and beverages were provided for all members and their families. Below are the winners from the Appreciation Party:

Early Entry Winners: Trent & Erin Huelsman; Rob & Jaclyn Kemper; Mike & Michelle Bohman; Todd & Amy Grieshop

Gift Certificate Winners

Maria Stein Legion Bar: Bill & Teresa Winner, Jerry & Ann Everman, Ron & Vickie Winner

Brick Haus: Dale & Diane Wolters, Jason & Katelyn Wolters, Tyler & Katie Speelman

Scott's Carryout: Morris & Marlene Albers, Dale & Karen Poeppelman, Jean Thobe

Chickasaw Qwik Stop: Randy & Deb Homan, Nick & Amy Pierron, Willie & Bertie Bruns

Winner's Meats: Bill & Jean Garman, Pam Stucke, Nick & Julie Schulze

Town Tavern: Don & Tess Mescher, Greg & Stacie Homan, Craig & Amy Knapke

Moeller Brew Barn: Glenn & Ann Griesdorn, Brad & Sandi Holdheide, Glenn & Mary Jo Schwieterman

Korner Kafe: Jeremy & Jill Hess, Gary & Elaine Thobe, Bob & Katie Dippold

Mercer County Elks: Phil & Marcia Moeller, Dianne & Larry Post, Kyle & Cara Unrast

MVP Sports: John & Irene Bruns, Greg & Kristi Klosterman, Randy & Ithaca Moeller

Free Membership: Craig & Brooke Moeder

Cash Winners: 1st - Art & Rosemary Prenger, 2nd - Luke & Roni Bertke, 3rd - Craig & Shannon Everman

As always, we have to thank all of the businesses who help our cause by donating gift certificates. We also thank all of our members for your continued support of not only our organization, but your support of our youth programs and parks in the Marion Community.

****NEW THIS YEAR!**** Join the MCDO 301 club for an evening of Night Golf & Music on the Patio at the Mercer County Elks Golf Club on June 19, 2020. Get a team of 4 together or let us put one together for you. We invite both golfers and non-golfers alike for an evening of fun at the course. Games, Door Prizes, Food & Fun! Golfing is \$30 for Elks members & \$40 for non-Elks members. Golfing starts at 9:30PM with games and live music from 7:30 – 10:30 PM. Register by contacting an MCDO 301 committee member or emailing mcdo301.group@gmail.com.

If anyone would like to join the MCDO 301 Recreation Club, please talk with Nick Boeckman through email at mcdo301.group@gmail.com, by phone at 937-638-8579 or any of the other committee members (Mitch Thobe, Luke Bertke, Brian Wolters, Alex Moeller, Kirk Stucke, Kyle Moeller, Matt Homan or Wes Everman).

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 children benefit from your generosity. Go Flyers!

THE MCDO 301 CLUB PRESENTS THE 1ST ANNUAL

Glow Ball

NIGHT

GOLF

MERCER COUNTY ELKS GOLF CLUB

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2020

MUSIC ON THE PATIO @ 8:00PM | GOLF STARTS @ 9:30PM

Join the MCDO 301 Recreation Club for an evening of Night Golf & Music on the Patio at the Mercer County Elks Golf Club. We invite both golfers and non-golfers alike for an evening of fun at the course. Games, Door Prizes, Food & Fun! Details to follow as we get closer to the event.

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

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Maria Stein Shrine—Don Rosenbeck and Susie Bergman

As of this moment, many of our events have been postponed or cancelled. We encourage you to check our website Event Calendar and visit our Facebook page for the most current information. **The Shrine, Chapels and Gift Shop will remain open until further notice.**

We have pulled the relic of **St. Charles Borromeo for continual veneration.** St. Charles Borromeo (1538-84) was the Cardinal Archbishop of Milan, Italy. He was also a caring pastor who led his congregation courageously and prudently during the epidemic of 1576/77. While the many of Milan's nobility fled the city, St. Charles remained enacting procedures to slow the spread of the disease, establishing makeshift hospitals, and attending to the needs of the poor and sick. He used his personal money to cover the cost of his ministry. The saintly bishop never contracted the illness, attributing that to his fasting and prayer.

We encourage you to visit the Shrine (if you are healthy and able) to help us pray for the intercession of St. Charles and all the Saints during this time of uncertainty.

