

MCDO MISSION STATEMENT

The Marion Community Development Organization (MCDO) is an organization under the laws of the State of Ohio, not-for-profit. The mission of the organization shall be to act as a coordinating body to assist local organizations meet the changing needs of the Marion Community through planned development while maintaining its agricultural profile. The activities will be directed toward, but not limited to, development of infrastructure, housing, family care, education, small business, recreation, and agriculture.

President, Ted Bertke called the September meeting of The Marion Community Development Organization to order by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held on Tuesday, September 16th, 2026, at 7:30 a.m. at the Marion Township Building.

TREASURER REPORT:

Deb Otte presented the financial report. The report for the month ending August 31st, 2026, is as follows:

Total Cash Balance: $378,328

Cash Summaries

Checking	$333,576
CD's	$22,844
Savings	$21,907
Total Cash	**$378,328**

Organization Fund Summaries

Recreation Fund	$23,609
General Fund – MCDO	$34,678
Marion Soccer	$16,447
Girls' Softball	$23,298
ML FFA	$22,279
ML FFA Pork Producers	$31,614
Boys Baseball	$59,547
Ag Ed Boosters	$30,974
Ag Ed Scholarship	$1,500
Ag Safety Awareness	$2,122
ML Bowling	$959
Marion Industrial Park Association	$28,613
Woods Chapel Maintenance Fund	$794
Multi-Use Path	$72,642
Fundamental League	$4,202
Girls Youth Basketball	$3,421
Boys Youth Basketball	$5,882
Carthagena Park	$15,749
Total Organization Funds	**$378,328**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

RECREATION COMMITTEE: *Committee Chairperson – Doug Bender*

The weekly winners of the 301 Club are as follows:

August 24th: Aaron & Sarah Timmerman

August 31st: John & Irene Bruns

September 7th: Tim & Joyce Moeller

September 14th: Jean Thobe

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE: *Committee Chairperson –Allison Moeller*

There is still time to renew your membership or become a new member for 2026! Every membership is invested locally, for the benefit of all current and future residents and generations. To all of the families and businesses who supported the Marion Community Development for 2026, thank you! We appreciate your support!

HOUSING: *Committee Chairperson – Bob Unrast*

The St. Francis housing development south of Chickasaw has four building lots available. The lots are between .381 and .711 acres starting at $28,500 and includes village water and sewage. Contact Tess Mescher for more information at 419-305-0106.

The Woodview Estates subdivision still has lots available for sale. For more information, please contact Jay Ruhenkamp at 937-295-4244.

Dan Jutte has a development underway off Jackson Street. Please contact him at 419-733-0053 for more information on the available lots.

Osgood has residential lots and a commercial lot for sale through Arling Real Estate. This development is on the west end of town off State Route 705 and Mendenhall Road to the north of OPPAC and Osgood Community Veterans Center. Please contact Brandon Arling at 567-644-4851 for details.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, & SAFETY: *Committee Chairperson – Lisa Buschur*

💉 **Flu Season Is Coming!**

There are several opportunities to get your flu vaccine locally:

Mercer County Health Department will offer a **Drive-Thru Flu Vaccine Clinic**

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

10:00 AM–5:00 PM

Mercer County Fairgrounds

No appointment necessary

Mercer Health will offer a **Drive-Up Flu Shot Clinic** at the **Marion Campus**:

Friday, October 2, 2026

Appointments are required. Call **(419) 925-7177** to schedule.

Additional dates and times are available at other Mercer Health provider offices. Visit **mercer-health.com** for more information.

Protect yourself and those around you this flu season—get your flu shot!

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: *Committee Chairperson – Mark Hardesty*

The FFA has had its first busy week of the year, which included the September FFA meeting, a trip to Farm Science Review, the District 5 Soils contest and a tailgate with the St. Henry FFA chapter. The soils contest was held in Trotwood, OH and the team is still awaiting results. Team members included Georgia Clune, Ryan Schwieterman, Vanessa Overman, Alex Grieshop, Lydia Evers, Stella Albers, Isaac Siefring, and Gus Bruns. We also have the District 5 Job Interview contest approaching as well as National FFA Convention on October 21st through the 23rd. The ag program continues to grow into its new home. We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to have this amazing new space for our classes!

Some notes from the monthly LIA meeting include, the all abilities playground is installed on the East Bank of Grand Lake. The wetlands started on April 1. By July 31st, they processed 650 million gallons. There was a 66% decrease in nitrogen and a 45% decrease in phosphorus, and also a 65% decrease in sediment. Algae is better than average with 3 times the flow. The Barnes Creek Wetland is currently being constructed. This is the last tributary on the south side of the lake.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- If anyone is interested in joining the MCDO Board in any capacity, please contact Deb Otte at admin@marioncommunities.com.

VILLAGES, TOWNSHIP, PARKS, & SCHOOL REPORTS:

1. **Carthagena Park Report –** To reserve the park please call Nancy Koesters at 419-925-5192.
2. **Chickasaw** – No new information to report.
3. **Chickasaw Park Board Report –** For information on renting the park shelters (both the VFW and Ball Diamond), contact AJ Homan at 419-733-1171.
4. **Osgood –** No new information to report.
5. **Osgood Park Board Report –** For information on renting the park shelters, call Nick Beasley at 937-621-7718.
6. **Marion Township** – No new information to report.
7. **Marion Township Park Board Report –** Please follow Marion Township Park on **Facebook (Marion Township Park)** and on **Twitter (@MarionTwpPark)**. You can also contact us through email: **mariontwppk@gmail.com.** The Monthly Park Raffle Winners are as follows:

   $50 – Dan & Mary Jo Hess
   $30 – Gary Mescher
   $25 – Bill & Teresa Winner
   $25 – Randy & Lynn Wolters

8. **Marion Local Schools –** Marion Local Elementary and High School participated in Safe Schools Week September 8 - 11 by conducting various drills throughout the week. Additional drills will be scheduled throughout the year to perform the standard procedures. Thank you to all the students and staff for their cooperation!

   Both the Elementary and High School have had a great start to the school year. Both the High School and Elementary principals have thanked all staff, students, and parents for their help in a successful transition!

   The new facility punch list items continue to be checked off the list. The athletic department has successfully hosted multiple games in the Flight Deck and the renovated Hangar and we greatly appreciate everyone's understanding as we work through minor issues. The subcontractors have been great to work with as they remain flexible working with our schedule now that school is in session. Administration is working on scheduling with Cotterman to complete the remainder of the siding needed to complete the high school building and weight room to remove yellow vinyl siding and match the metal siding throughout the district.

   Fun fact: Current enrollment is 1,010 students for the 2026-2027 school year. The last time Marion Local has had over 1,000 students was in the 1999-2000 school year. Prior to the 1998-1999 school year at 1,005 (last "most-recent" time); it was the 1978-1979 school year of 1,040 students. The enrollment projections continue this trend for the next several years!

Dr. Hardesty made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 am and was 2nd by Lisa Buschur. The next MCDO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20th, 2026, at 7:30 a.m. in the Marion Township Building.

Submitted by: Ted Bertke, President

Board of Directors

Ted Bertke, President	419-852-1072
Deb Otte, Secretary	419-305-4014
Wes Everman, Treasurer	419-234-2747
Deb Otte, Coordinator	419-305-4014

Committee Chairpersons

Agricultural Development:	Mark Hardesty, DVM 419-925-4212
Business Retention & Dev.:	Jill Nagel 419-925-9101
Health, Safety & Education:	Lisa Buschur 419-305-0858
Housing:	Bob Unrast 419-305-4485
Infrastructure:	Nick Moeller 619-884-9958
Membership:	Allison Moeller 567-644-5207
Recreation:	Luke Bertke 419-953-6114



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