

Marion County Savings Bank Encourages “Thinking Local” During their 100th Anniversary!

The nation is on the move... back to community banking. After watching the economic downturn and the help that Wall Street needed during this time, people are taking note of the value of their locally-owned community bank that never stopped business as usual. Community banks like Marion County Savings Bank function as a vital contributor to their community. They make loans in the community where their depositors live and work. “Taking care of the local area” is a responsibility that Marion County Savings Bank takes very seriously as one of the last of Marion County’s locally-owned community banks.

The businesses and residents of Marion County have had the services of locally-owned community institution, Marion County Savings Bank, for 100 years! Marion County Savings Bank is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year. Even more impressive is the fact that they are the only locally-owned community bank remaining in Salem. Larry Clark, President of Marion County Savings Bank, commented, “We have so many wonderful customers and friends that realize the value that we bring to our community. Our customers appreciate that we give what we can to assist our schools and local charities. They appreciate that we still care about answering their phone calls in person. They know that we are always here, and will do what we possibly can, to help with their financial needs. We are especially proud that our customers see that our employees are happy to work for us, which makes our bank a pleasant place to visit and take care of business.”

The bottom line for community banking is different than that of its large competitors headquartered out of the area. The difference is that community banks are tied closely and feel responsible for the vitality of their community. Like Marion County Savings Bank, they have a Board of Directors made up of local citizens that take an active role in their community. At Marion County Savings Bank, their Directors guide the bank to ensure that it serves as a catalyst for advancing the best interests and needs of Marion County residents and businesses. In fact, they are integral when it comes to providing financing for critical needs projects that are required for the local business community to survive and compete. Local decision making by a local board is a key advantage!

A community bank should feel like an important part of your hometown. It’s only natural for Marion County Savings Bank to be a part of the things that make up the local community. “Our customers hear us on the local radio, and see us in the local newspaper and on the television station. It always feels good to know that your bank is participating in your community,” shared Attorney and Board Member Eric Terlizzi.

Marion County Savings Bank appreciates its employees and tries to support what is important to them. “Our employees take a personal interest in this community because they care,” mentioned Board Member Marilyn Shook. “This organization cares about this community. And, the community sees this about our organization. Most of Marion County Savings Bank’s employees would agree that working in a community bank is like working for the family business. And, working for our Salem community family is something we all take pride in!”

After 100 years in business, Marion County Savings Bank is still healthy and growing. They are still partnering with the businesses and organizations in their community. As was their original mission

when they started as a Building and Loan Association in 1910, they are still working hard to fulfill the home ownership dreams for the residents of Marion County. After starting with \$1,285.00 in assets and a part-time employee, they are now Marion County's largest locally-owned financial institution with over \$100,000,000 in assets and 32 employees. For residents, businesses and organizations that are looking for a secure financial institution that cares, the Marion County Savings Bank Team encourages you to "think local" and to stop by and meet them.

Larry Clark, the Board of Directors, and the Marion County Savings Bank employees want to thank their many customers and Marion County for supporting their business during this past 100 years. They are planning for a 100th Anniversary celebration event on Saturday, June 12th. Everyone is invited! Some pretty prominent personalities are reportedly coming back for the event. You won't want to miss it! Marion County Savings Bank is located at 301 W Main Street in downtown Salem, with a drive-up location almost directly across the street from their main bank.

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