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BEFORE
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The Marion Star

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 | MARION, OHIO | MARIONSTAR.COM

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Katrina **TWENTY YEARS LATER**
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Members of a support group for caregivers of relatives with dementia gather in Fort Myers, Florida, to share their experiences as they navigate caring for their loved ones. A new Medicare benefit of \$2,500 helps diagnosed individuals and their caregivers access support. RICARDO ROLON/FORT MYERS NEWS-PRESS FILE

Mayor proposes economic development director role

Abby Bammerlin
Marion Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

For the past few decades, Marion County has relied upon CAN DO! to attract industrial economic development. But after a tremulous bid to get funding for CAN DO! from the City of Marion was voted down, the city and county may move in a new direction.

During an Aug. 11 city council meeting, Mayor Bill Collins proposed a new idea to address economic development.

Collins has expressed interest in a new role being created – a director of economic development. In his vision for the position, the City of Marion and Marion County would split the cost of the salary and benefits.

Collins said whoever takes the position would work for both county and city with some involvement with CAN DO!.

"Our economic development person is more of a cheerleader for Marion and Marion County to try to entice people to come here," Collins said.

During the hiring process, Collins said he'd like to see collaboration between the mayor's office, the commissioners and CAN DO!. He hopes this allows CAN DO! to focus its funding on marketing and advertising for the land it owns.

See DIRECTOR, Page 2A

Medicare offering help for dementia caregivers

\$2,500 for respite aids families, but experts say more is needed

Liz Freeman
Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

NAPLES, FL – It's a start and long overdue, according to people who work in dementia care, regarding a Medicare

benefit of \$2,500 to help diagnosed individuals and their caregivers.

What comes next is appreciation for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which established the benefit that families can use for respite, or breaks, from caregiving.

Health care professionals see how families struggle. They know respite is essential for family members who are bone tired, anxious and feel adrift in need of a lifeline of support on all

See CAREGIVERS, Page 5A

Good Neighbor Day returns to Marion with 3K roses to give away

Abby Bammerlin
Marion Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Marion Flower Shop is helping the community share its love and appreciation for one another for Good Neighbor Day.

The shop plans to give away 3,000 roses of assorted colors in bunches of a dozen to visitors on Wednesday, Sept.

10, with one stipulation. Visitors who accept the dozen roses must keep one for themselves and give the others away.

"The idea is to spread goodwill in the community," said Judi Noblit, owner of the Marion Flower Shop.

The event used to be annual, but the pandemic prevented the Marion Flower Shop from being able to put on Good Neighbor Day the past few years. But

now, the day of giving is back.

Beginning at 7 a.m., the shop will to what Noblit expects to be a line around the store. Each person will receive a dozen roses for free, while supplies last, which can be handed out to teachers, nurses, doctors, neighbors, or anyone they meet.

The annual event usually sees most of the roses gone by noon or 1 p.m. Noblit hopes the roses give people

an excuse to meet one another and help the community form new friendships.

"It's absolutely marvelous," Noblit said.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office will help prepare the flowers before Sept. 10 by cleaning, de-thorning and wrapping them. The officers will be present during the day to pass out the flowers.

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