

BROWN

ESTABLISHED 1830

TOWNSHIP

Winter 2010

Town Center Master Plan Design Workshops Set

For those interested in participating in and providing guidance to the Town Center Master Plan process, mark your calendars now for the last week of January. The consultant team, led by Urban Design Associates of Pittsburgh, will hold public meetings and three full days of design workshops, all open to the public.

The first public meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 25, at Cedar Ridge Lodge at Battelle-Darby Metro Park, 1775 Darby Creek Drive, Galloway. The design workshops will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 300 West Broad Street, Columbus. The concluding public meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 28 at Cedar Ridge Lodge at Battelle-Darby Metro Park.

The Town Center Master Plan process is an implementation initiative identified in the Big Darby Accord to establish a more specific vision for development of the Town Center and provide detailed recommendations, including level of development, infrastructure requirements, design guidelines, and phasing. The proposed Town Center area straddles Brown

and Prairie townships, generally between U.S. 40 and I-70.

The purpose of the design workshops is to develop, refine, and review master plan alternatives in consultation with the public, the advisory group, and the client group. The design workshops will culminate with a presentation of the Town Center Master Plan and Implementation Program at a public meeting for citizen input. The meeting will feature a presentation of ideas and round table discussions of the plan's merits and deficiencies and the public's priorities for development.

The design work planned for January is based on extensive work conducted during the consultant team's first two trips to the planning area in October and December.

Phase I

The "Understanding" phase — of the consultant team's work is complete. The team worked to understand the unique political, cultural, economic, ecological, and physical situations associated with the Big Darby Accord and the Town Center site. In addition to collection and evaluation of hard data and mapping

from earlier efforts, the UDA team explored the site, interviewed stakeholders, and analyzed existing conditions in addition to holding a meeting of the advisory committee and a public meeting during the October trip.

Phase II

"Alternatives" — began with the second trip and will conclude at the

continued next page

Public Meeting Schedule

Opening Public Meeting

6:30 p.m. January 25
Cedar Ridge Lodge
Battelle-Darby Metro Park

Design Workshops

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. January 26
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. January 27
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. January 28
Veterans Memorial Auditorium

Concluding Public Meeting

6:30 p.m. January 28
Cedar Ridge Lodge
Battelle-Darby Metro Park

Town Center Master Plan *from first page*

end of the January visit. The December trip focused on meetings with the client group and advisory committee to review results of the first phase of work and direction for planning frameworks and a development strategy as well as an initial work session to establish design principles and options for land use and infrastructure frameworks.

Based on the direction from the design workshops, Phase III of the process — “Deciding” — will include preparation of a draft of the Big Darby Accord Town Center Master Plan including:

- a market study and development program
- a development plan (including land use, transportation, water and wastewater facilities, stormwater management, open space, public services and facilities, and an illustrative master plan)
- regulatory framework and
- an implementation program.

The draft plan will be reviewed by the client group and advisory committee and at a final public meeting for citizen review and input. Presentations to political leaders will take place as well. Taking into account input received during the draft plan phase, the final plan will be prepared for delivery to the four client jurisdictions — Franklin County, Brown and Prairie townships, and the City of Columbus.

The Town Center Master Plan is scheduled to be complete in mid-2010.

Contributed by:
Elizabeth A. Clark, AICP
Executive Assistant to the Brown
Township Board of Trustees

Habitat Restoration in the Metro Parks

As many people know, the Darby Plains Tall-Grass Prairie at nearly 400 square miles was the largest native prairie region in Ohio prior to settlement. While most people envision dry areas when they hear the word “prairie,” the prairies of the Darby Plains were very likely a mixture of seasonally very wet prairies and drier savannas or groves of oak trees.



Many of the restoration efforts at Prairie Oaks and Battelle Darby Creek Metro Parks over the years have focused on restoring these native grassland and wetland habitats in areas of appropriate soils. Some of these areas are easily viewed from the entrance road at Prairie Oaks Metro Park, where one may view over 125 acres of prairie that contains small, scattered wetlands. Currently, over 650 acres of native Darby Plains prairies have been restored using grass and wildflower seeds strictly from the Darby Plains.

In 2010, Metro Parks will embark on its largest Darby Plains Prairie project to date with the restoration of a nearly 600-acre tract of land at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park. Representing a portion of the former Darby Dan Farms landholdings, a large field east of Darby Creek Drive contains a considerable amount of prairie and wetland soils. Construction efforts are planned to begin in early to mid-July with completion by next fall, in time for planting the area with native grasses and wildflowers. Stay tuned and watch the progress as this very exciting large-scale restoration effort begins.

Often overlooked in the Darby region are the various woodlands habitats and the plant and animal life they support. The intact floodplain woods along Big and Little Darby creeks play a vital role in the protection and maintenance of the Darby Creeks’ water quality and species found there. However, most

upland forests are either fairly small or fragmented from their connections with floodplain forests, which becomes a limiting factor for many species of wildlife.

Beginning in 2007 and continuing through 2014, Metro Parks will be working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to restore small wetlands, control invasive non-native species, and initiate upland reforestation on approximately 975 acres at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park.

This restoration project is aimed at creating a 1,500- to 2,000-acre forested area directly upstream from the confluence of the Big and Little Darby creeks at Georgesville. The reforestation of current upland open fields will provide a connection between existing forests along Big and Little Darby creeks to create one large forested block. The future forested area will contain upland forests, bottomland forests, and the transitional forests that occur along the slopes leading up out of the floodplains.

While it will take several decades to mature, the resulting benefits to water quality, species diversity, and species protection will be worth the wait.

Contributed by:
John Watts
Resource Manager
Metro Parks

MARGARET SCHRECK: A PROFILE

Life-long Brown Township resident, wife, businesswoman, mother of nine, seamstress, artist, World War II WAC, art teacher, gardener, and good neighbor.....

This is only a partial description of the remarkable woman who is Margaret Schreck.

Margaret Trapp, as she was then known, enlisted in the Women's Army Corp (WAC) in March, 1943, a month before her 25th birthday. Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia was the site of basic training, motor transport training, and later, overseas training with further training in South Dakota. She left California for Australia aboard the USS America, and then served in the secretarial pool typing records for troop movements, casualties, and courts marshal in Brisbane, Australia for a year and Manila in the Philippines for a little over a year. Sgt. Trapp was the first WAC to set foot on the soil of Luzon Island in the Philippines. Miss Trapp met the man who would become her husband, Victor Schreck, while serving in Australia. Mr. Schreck, a military police officer, provided security to the residence of General Douglas MacArthur while stationed in Brisbane. Mr. Schreck died in 2006.

In birth order, the nine Schreck children are Ed, Regina, Rene, Steve, Ann, Lisa, Rosie, Rita, and Greg. All live in Ohio and all attended area Catholic schools, including Bishop Ready High School.

Mr. and Mrs. Schreck moved to the Roberts Road farm in 1947 after their marriage and built the present home in 1955. To create a farming business that



could involve all the children, the Schrecks decided to raise laying hens and make a business of selling and delivering eggs. Mrs. Schreck relished driving the egg delivery routes throughout Franklin County to locations in Upper Arlington and downtown, to restaurants, institutions, and individual residences.

During the peak years from about 1964 to 1986, there were 10,000 laying hens on the farm at a time. The Schrecks also kept pigs and cattle as well as novelty birds such as peacocks, guineas, turkeys, geese, and ducks along with Maggie, the donkey, who is now about 40 years old. Currently, Charlie, the dog, resides at the residence, along with plenty of feline friends.

Born in 1918 in Grove City, Margaret moved with her family to a home on Roberts Road (near what is now Brown Elementary School) when she was six years old so she and her sister could attend a school to which they could walk. Mrs. Schreck reports that there was plenty of work to do on the farm as a child. Her sister helped with work in the house and Margaret helped her father with the farm work.

While raising nine children and driving the egg delivery routes

sounds like a full enough schedule for anyone, Mrs. Schreck was an avid seamstress who sewed her own wedding dress, complete with beading, as well as all the children's clothing (including coats), planted huge gardens, and canned and preserved much of the family's food.

For several years after retiring from the egg business, the Schrecks spent three months a year in New Port Richey, Florida and spent time traveling throughout the United States, including western Kansas, near the Colorado border, the area from which Mr. Schreck hailed before his time in the Army.

Mrs. Schreck has 12 grandchildren, who love to come to the farm to visit and do so as often as they can.

The soft-spoken Mrs. Schreck reports that she enjoyed drawing and painting and later taught art at the Hilliard Senior Center. The paintings and drawings, particularly of flowers, that hang on the walls in her home are testament to her talent. She had won awards for her art as a young woman, a fact her children only learned much later when they were adults.

Mrs. Schreck graduated from Hilliard High School in 1936 and keeps in touch with her high school classmates. She regularly attends St. Cecelia Church.

*By Elizabeth A. Clark, AICP
Executive Assistant to the Trustees*

This is one of an occasional series of articles on noteworthy Brown Township residents. If you have a suggestion for a future profile, please let us know.

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- To have your newsletter addressed in your name instead of “Brown Township Neighbor,” please visit <http://www.Brown.Twp.Franklin.oh.us/newsletters.htm>.



*Clockwise from left: Gary Dever, Ronald Williams,
Pamela Sayre and Barbara Bloxam*

Brown Township Administration Office

2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026 876-2133

Website

www.brown.twp.franklin.oh.us

Fiscal Officer

Barbara Bloxam 876-2133

Trustees

Mr. Gary Dever 876-4768

Mr. Ronald Williams 876-6118

Mrs. Pamela Sayre 878-0199

Norwich Fire Department

David Long, Chief 876-5367

Brown Township Board of Trustees Meeting

When: 3rd Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Where: 2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio

For Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies, Dial 911