



# The Montville Minute

## From Your Elected Officials & Township Staff:



### *Blue Heron Park Complex Nature Preserves A Community Collaborative Model*

What began as the Blue Heron Golf Course, Banquet Hall, and River Styx Grill in 2004 has today been repurposed into one of the most creative community projects in the country – a 252 acre recreational nature preserve consisting of three separate but adjoining parks which include a first class mountain bike trail and a lodge-type coffee shop that houses a mountain bike/snowshoe rental business that plans to employ 12—15 people with disabilities who live in Medina County. Montville Township is excited and proud to publicize this very unique collaborative accomplishment between public and private entities.

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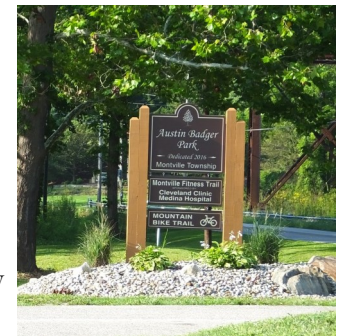
Now known as the Blue Heron Park Complex, three beautiful scenic nature reserve-type parks have resulted from grants, contributions and in-kind donations from 25 different agencies and organizations, and scores of volunteers from the community who worked together on various components of the project.

Shortly after the Blue Heron Golf Course/Banquet Facility and restaurant went out of business in 2011, the land was sold to Montville Township to be preserved as park land.

The Banquet facility and restaurant was purchased by Dave and Gayle Kelley of the QDRO Group, long time Montville Township residents. Later on, they sold the banquet and restaurant buildings to Taste of Excellence, an event planning and catering business, where this spectacular 30,000 square foot facility overlooks the park connected by a large wooden bridge.

Opening during the Summer of 2018, in the building that formally housed the golf course pro shop and River Styx Restaurant, is the new Blue Heron Brewery and Pub. This business will feature a high end restaurant and also the pub with the brewery on the lower level and is due to open Labor Day weekend.

In 2016, Montville Township received a Clean Ohio Fund Grant from Ohio Public Works Commission to pay for a majority of the land purchase price. At that time, biologists from the University of Akron and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History assisted with the grant application process by creating an inventory of the plants, trees, birds, animals, flowers, insects, and wetlands there to document the quality of this natural environment. Neighbors from the Blue Heron Estates development situated adjacent to the land participated in the grant application by contributing pictures of birds and animals observed on park land near their homes. Soon after, Montville Township began to develop three separate parks.



During the planning stages of the parks, Montville Township Trustees were also planning for their 2019 bicentennial celebration. Since Montville Township has a mission to preserve its rural atmosphere and green space it was decided to name all three parks in the memory and honor of the first three trustees who settled the township: Austin Badger - Aaron Smith - Thomas Currier.

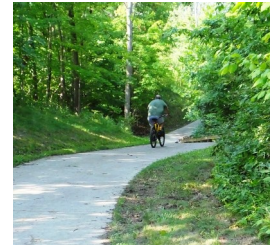
*Parks continued...*

Situated along River Styx Road by the historic circa 1890 Wheeling and Lake Erie 75’ high railroad trestle (still in use today), and next to the winding West Branch of the Rocky River, Austin Badger Park was the first of the three parks to formally open in 2015.

Austin Badger Park contains outdoor fitness stations (donated by the Cleveland Clinic). Also there, mountain bike trails (developed and donated by the Cleveland Mountain Bike Association) were constructed in 2016. More ramps and biking accoutrements are being added in 2018. Local boy scout clubs built a bike washing station, park benches and trash receptacles. Kohl’s Cares volunteers donated clean up time, and the Medina County Police Activity League (MCPAL) kids from Blake Elementary planted seedling trees.



The most significance contribution to our community however, happened in 2017, when work began on “Spokes II”, a lodge-type coffee shop/mountain bike/snowshoe rental lodge (donated by PeaceWorks, an affiliation of Intervention for Peace, an agency that provides jobs for people with disabilities). Mountain bike enthusiasts can rent various bicycles to try out on the course before buying them and a bike shop in Akron can follow up and make the sale.



During the snowy months, outdoor enthusiasts can still enjoy the park by renting snowshoes. And coffee and other refreshments will be available for sale to park users all year round. The Grand Opening for Spokes II was held on June 21st, the Summer Solstice. Residents were invited to walk in the park on the longest day of the year.

The second park to open was Aaron Smith Park in 2017. This nature preserve contains walking trails, a field station for nature lovers, and is the home of many types of unusual plants and birds.

The third park, Thomas Currier Park, another nature preserve, will be opening sometime in the future. Several areas are being considered for easy parking access to enjoy these parts of the park.

In 2016, biologists from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History documented the song of the endangered Cerulean Warbler in an area of old growth forest. They also discovered several unusual plants which are now cataloged and stored at their museum. Also during that year, Montville Township received another Clean Ohio Fund Grant to help pay for the cost to connect the forests with native trees there and eliminate invasive species in all three parks.

In 2018, Montville Township received a capital budget grant from the State of Ohio to pay for the costs to repurpose an existing golf course building into a preserve field station, to repair some of the bridges, to increase the size of the parking lot, and to construct storm weather shelters throughout the parks for visitors in the event of an unexpected storm.

<b>Montville Township appreciates contributions to the Blue Heron Park Complex from those listed below:</b>	
Dave & Gayle Kelley and QDRO	Senator Larry Obhof
Drs. Tulisiak & Stewbridge & Cleveland Clinic	Jon Bluebond MCBDD
Jason Rinehart and CAMBA	Clean Ohio Fund, OPWC
Dave Clardy and PeaceWorks	Dave Sabol Architect, LLC
Michael Kaminsky	Dan DeLuca, Bob & Greg Tidwell, Steve Reese
Laura & Ben Parnell-Cavey, Cool Beans	Jim Bissel, Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Lewis Land Professionals, Inc.	Pride One & Redwood Living
Randy Mitchell & Chris Chaney , U. of Akron	MCPAL Blake Elementary
Boy Scouts Dens # 501, 506 & 513 and Kohls Cares	Lamphear Lawn Service, LLC
Precision HVAC & Lodi Lumber	Costa and Sons Concrete & Economy Door, LLC
Jon Gasser Construction, Inc.	Osbourne Medina, Inc. & Rick Carroll Plumbing

## Resident Spotlight

Lisa and Vincent Karnow are Cobblestone Subdivision, Montville Township residents who love to run. Lisa is a friendly, energetic and welcoming first grade school teacher by trade who is passionate about orchestrating Medina's Healthy Kids Running Series twice a year at Cobblestone Park. Healthy Kids Running is a national nonprofit organization that promotes the sport of running for kids who range in ages 2 through 8th grade.

In a Healthy Kids Running program - twice a year, children compete in a series of 5 weekly Sunday afternoon races in varying distances depending on age. 2 and 3 year olds run 50 yards, 4 and 5 year olds run 75 yards, kindergarten and first graders run  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile, 2nd and 3rd graders run  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, and 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders run a mile.

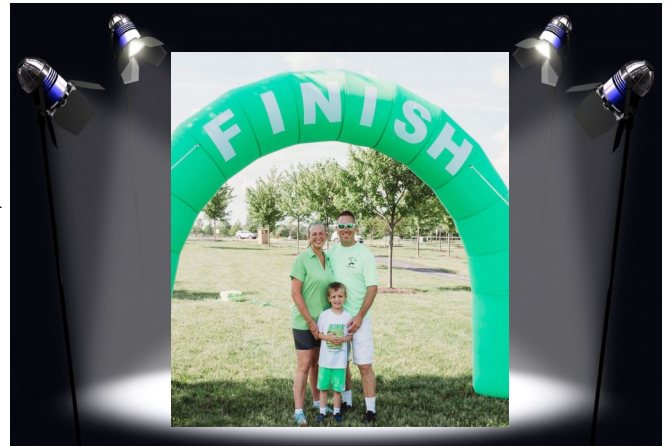
Points are accumulated and at the end of all five races, the top three winners in each category get a trophy. All children who participate get a tee-shirt and a medal. A registration fee of \$35.00 covers everything.

Healthy Kids Running is just the kind of a very fun, healthy, family friendly event typical of Montville Township's personality and a great fit for our community.

Lisa's first series was held last Fall with 126 runners. Her Spring, 2018 series that started on April 22, had 231 children running.

This Fall's series starts on September 16th and runs for the next four Sundays. Registration for this event begins on June 29th. Interested residents can register online by going to:

[http://www.healthykidsrunningseries.org/race\\_locations/medina-oh/](http://www.healthykidsrunningseries.org/race_locations/medina-oh/), or by contacting Lisa on Facebook at HKRSMedinaOH.



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*Explorers* – A visit to the New York Police Department gave 13 area teens with an interest in law enforcement a unique insight into potential career paths.

The trip June 3-6 was planned by Montville Police Chief Terry Grice for students in the Explorers program organized as part of the Medina County Police Activity League





The annual Medina County Senior Day was held on May 15th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Community Center at the Medina County Fairgrounds. At that time, seniors completed a survey designed to identify areas of needs that they had in order to live independently and age in their homes (versus going into costly assisted living or nursing home level of care).

Four issues were identified: meals, transportation, activities and home maintenance. The Office for Older Adults already provides meals, transportation and social activities. Seniors interested in these services are encouraged to contact the Office for Older Adults at 330-723-9514. Those wishing to receive their bi-monthly newsletter “Senior Talk” can request it by emailing jakiousis@medinaco.org, or go to their website at www.mcooa.org and follow the Newsletter link. The recently founded Senior Foundation is researching ways to provide some sort of home maintenance services.

Come join seniors at the Office for Older Adults’ outdoor patio for fun in the sun picnic on the patio with friends and music at 246 Northland Drive in Medina on Friday, July 22, 2018. The entertainment is by the Music Men, DJ’s Tom and Dave with a music trivia challenge. Lunch is DiRusso’s sausage sandwich with onions and peppers, and potato or macaroni salad, chips, dessert and drink. The event is sponsored by The Avenue. Cost is \$4.00.



As part of a vast array of lifelong services, the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities (MCBDD) is proud to provide Early Intervention services for children ages birth through 3 with developmental disabilities. In the past three years, there has been a 49% increase in the need for early intervention services in Medina County. The MCBDD provides a team of professionals such as early intervention specialists, physical, occupational and speech therapists to help families address their young child’s needs and help them reach their full potential. For more information about Early Intervention services, call the

MCBDD at 330-725-7751 ext. 244.

The following are upcoming events supported by MCBDD:

- July 10 at 6:00 pm  
Self-Advocates Meeting  
Buehler’s River Styx, 3626 Medina Road, Medina
- July 16-20 from 9:30-11:30 am  
Safety Town PLUS  
Achievement Center/  
Windfall School, 4691 Windfall Road, Medina

- August 11 from 9:30-11:30 am

Wings for All

Cleveland International Airport, 5300 Riverside Drive, Cleveland

- September 15 and 22 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Babysitter Training Class

SHC, The Arc of Medina County, 4283 Paradise Road, Seville

- September 15 from 6:00 pm

Music in Common Spaces

Achievement Center, 4691 Windfall Road, Medina

**“By making a positive difference through services such as education and job training, we witness individuals with developmental disabilities achieving their dreams. At the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities the phrase ‘Individual Support. Community Achievement.’ are more than just words, they are how we do business.”**

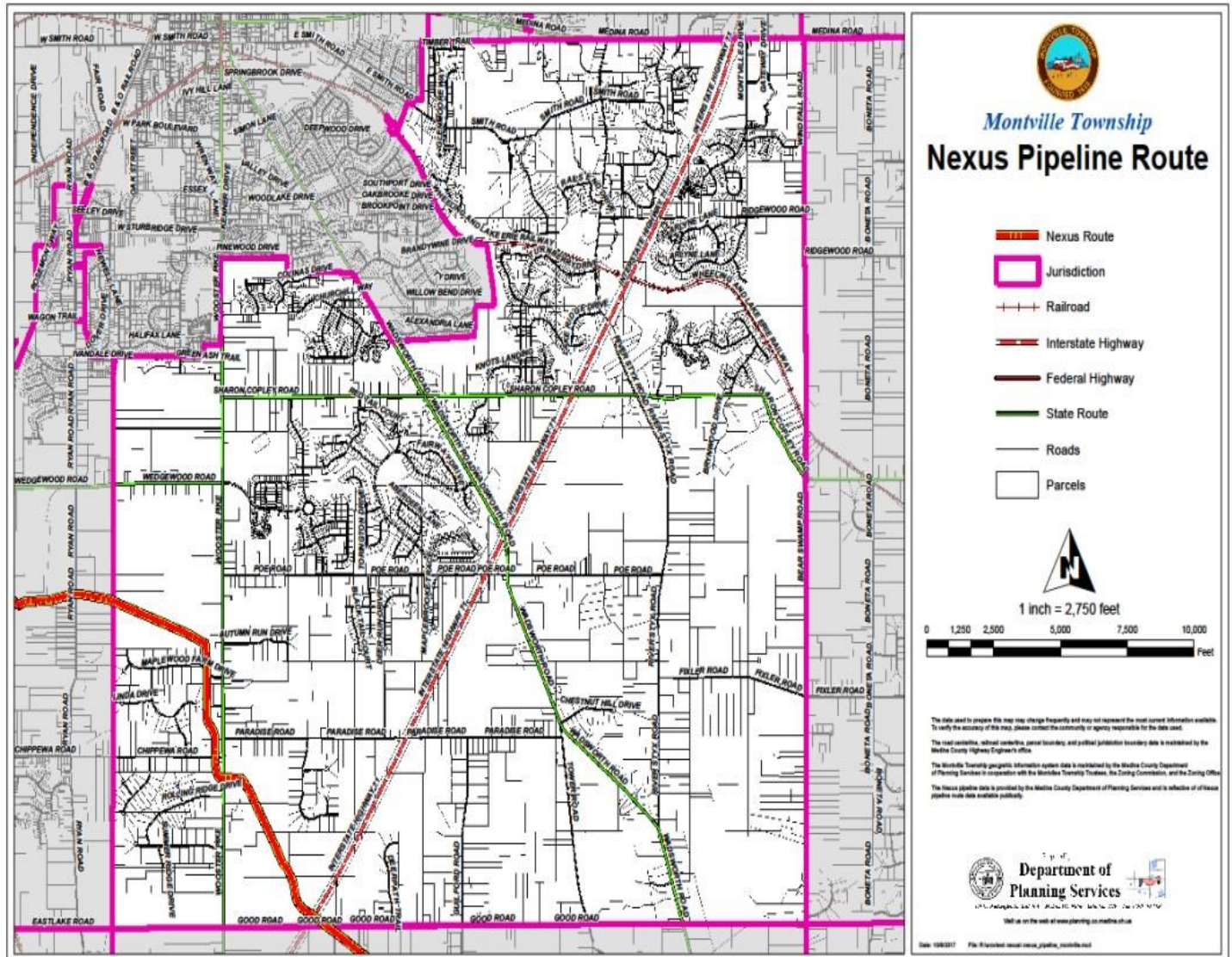


After three years of review by the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) and Ohio EPA, the Nexus Pipeline Project slated to run through Montville Township and the surrounding county has begun. The project will be completed and all land restored by the Fall.

During that time, 1200 landowners were approached and 99.9% have signed easements and received compensation.

Nexus stresses safety above all else in design, construction and operation. All phases and stages will be inspected by the Pipeline Hazard Material Safety Association (PHMSA). The 36" diameter pipe is made of 100% high pressure 1/2" carbon steel and all connections are welded. It will move 1.5 bcf of dry gas per day and have 1440 lbs. pressure maximum. The pipeline will be monitored digitally 24/7 by real people at Nexus in Texas.

Michaels Construction and Latex Construction are the contractors you will see in the area. They will be hiring local labor. After construction, inspections are done every three years to look for anomalies or anything out of the ordinary. The average depth of the pipeline is 3' minimum but most areas will be 4' or deeper. It will be 5' under roads.





## RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

ATTENTION: All Montville Township Residents and  
Businesses

The 2018 Trunk R Treat/Scary Walk  
at

Cobblestone Park is scheduled for  
October 20

We need helpers and neighborhoods to develop scenes along the Scary Pathway.  
Please email Rebecca Byrne at [rbyrne@montvilletwp.org](mailto:rbyrne@montvilletwp.org), or call her at 330-725-8314.