

DAYTON DAILY NEWS - April 17, 2009 (All emphasis added by D. Fessler)

Miami County (Note: Excerpts pertinent to Bethel Township)

Collaboration, economic development projects help stave off major cuts

By Kathy Tyler

“Miami, Shelby and Auglaize counties received \$1.1 million in federal funds to identify and remove blighted properties.”

“Development planning the big township project

“Bethel Twp. administration and trustees are preparing for the future as township officials are in the middle of strategic development planning.

“The focus right now is along the U.S. 40 corridor from south of Ross Road to the Montgomery County and Clark County lines.

“After the Route 40 corridor, we will continue to plan for the middle and top portions of the townships,” said Michael Gebhart, Bethel Twp. administrator. “A good portion of the township is most dense along that corridor, which is why we started there. **Hopefully, we will be in the final stages or near completion this time next year.**

“We are such a small organization. We run lean to start with a full time administrator, full time planning and zoning director, full time fire chief, and two full time road workers so it’s not tough to continue the fiscal responsibilities the trustees and fiscal officers have set for us. But sometimes projects take a little longer to get accomplished.”

“Bethel Twp. continues its branding with new entryway signs along the major roadways. The new logo appears on the newsletter and Web site.

“The township is exploring possibilities on the Brandt Sewer project. The project will bring new sewers to Ohio 201 and U.S. 40 in the community of Brandt.”

[Note: “Exploring possibilities” is a huge understatement.]