

MULTI USE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The Burns Farm: A Historic Property with a Visionary Future

The beautiful 350 acre Burns Farm overlooking the heart of Ross at the intersection of #US 27 and State Route 128 is part of the original 1500 acre tract purchased in 1805 by Revolutionary War veteran and early Cincinnati settler David Everett Wade. He would become the first of seven generations to benefit from his foresight. In 1906, Jessie May Wade married Paul Burns and over time the farm became known as the Burns Farm. Tom Wade Burns (who died in 2020) and his wife Katherine lived on the farm for much of the last 26 years. The farm has been continuously farmed for over 200 years. Tom's sister Nancy survives as the last Wade descendent who grew up on the farm. She has made the bittersweet decision to sell the farm and continues to work with the township to ensure that the farm is developed in a comprehensive, cohesive manner.

The Burns Farm is so key to the future of Ross that the current Ross Township Land Use Plan adopted in 2008 designates the property as a Downtown Regional Center, envisioning a vibrant town center with a mix of housing options and community amenities. The 2008 recession deferred family plans to sell the property then but now there is a buyer who is committed to working with the township and the family to make this dream a reality. An experienced developer, whose own family has deep roots in Ross, he shares the Burns Family aspiration of honoring their Wade heritage and creating a visionary legacy that will benefit the community and be the pride of Ross for many generations to come.

Talks between the Township and Springboro based Centerstone Development's Ron Coffman began in the spring of 2019 with those discussions centering around the Land Use Plan, the Burns farm and family legacy and the Township's demands for a quality development that sets the tone for high end, smart growth.

The Ross Local School District entered the discussions in early 2020 to assure that the quality education currently enjoyed by Ross students remained intact and well financed. Both the Ross Township Board of Trustees and the Ross Board of Education fully endorse the Coffman plan for development of this important tract of land. The plan also is financially beneficial to both the Township and the school system and insures that future growth pays the bulk of the cost for the increased services resulting from future developments.