

## Lewis Center artist captures quickly fading rural scenes

By [JENNIFER NOBLIT](#)

Linda Wesner is trying to capture the rural side of Delaware County before it vanishes to growth and development.

The Lewis Center artist works in oil and colored pencils to capture rural landscape before it disappears.

An exhibit this month in Worthington and an upcoming show at Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission will showcase the work that Wesner said pictures forgotten areas.

"So many people are not aware of what's going on around them," she said. "They have tunnel vision."

"These icons that have been around for 100 years are going away. This at least makes people aware of what's going on around them."

Wesner said she considers her art realistic landscape and has painted and drawn familiar scenes such as Alum Creek, Lewis Center Road and old buildings in Delaware and Lewis Center Farms.

She has been a resident intermittently for 25 years, but Wesner said since her last return, beautiful scenes are disappearing daily.

"I've lived here three years, and I'm already seeing numerous farms eliminated," she said.

Wesner grew up among old farm homes and barns in New York where she found her passion for landscapes. Her 30-year art career is peppered with several awards and shows across the country.

Wesner said she has always been inspired by history, old buildings and rural landscapes.

But Wesner was inspired to capture Delaware County while exercising.

"I was at a women's fitness center that used to be an old hardware store," she said. "While I was on a machine I always saw this home."

After staring at the old home, Wesner decided to paint it and parts of Lewis Center.

"To me Lewis Center is waiting. All these changes are coming," she said. "No one is around and I wanted to capture the stillness and isolation that's being evolved by development."

"I really do think buildings have life, a personality. My goal is to capture that."

Now Wesner said she always has a camera in the car with her in case she sees an inspiring place.



*News photo by Tim Johnson*  
Lewis Center artist Linda Wesner re-creates with her artwork the rural scenes of Liberty Township and Delaware County before they are taken over by development. Her work will be on display at Guernsey Bank in Worthington through Sept. 30.

She and Lewis Center artist Lauren Richards are canvassing the county and painting outdoors with an exhibit of works on Delaware County in mind.

Although her goal is to capture landscape before it's gone, Wesner said she understands that development is part of the evolving county.

She would like to see smart development, though.

"No matter how many people come into the area ... it's important to have remnants of the past. People always say 'if only we'd saved this or that,' " Wesner said. "It's hard in the momentum of development to save remnants of the past."

Wesner's latest exhibit Linda Wesner: Vanishing Landscapes of Central Ohio can be seen at Guernsey Bank, 547 High St. in Worthington, through Sept. 30.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission exhibit Art in the Halls will begin in November at 285 E. Main St. in Columbus.

For more information on Wesner visit [lawesner.com](http://lawesner.com).